



# THE CARPENTER

## ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

VANDERBURGH COUNTY EVANSVILLE, INDIANA ESTABLISHED IN 1841

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DECEMBER, 2025



### WE HAVE SKELETONS IN OUR CLOSET....AND THAT IS GOOD THING

*Fr. Gene Schroeder*  
PASTOR

Halloween has become a very popular time to decorate houses and lawns. Among the popular decorations are skeletons, mostly the human kind and very big skeletons at that. I have to smile every time I see these decorations. It makes me think of all the "skeletons" we have in our families. One of the great privileges of being a priest is that I get to know lots of families and with so many of them I am given the gift of knowing the different skeletons in people's family. They are often stories of painful times and difficult situations that families have had to go through. But by and large these "skeletons" were kept hidden in the closet and not talked about. Seeing all the skeletons on full display in so many Halloween decorations makes me wonder if there is not something to bringing all the skeletons out of the closet.

We are now beginning the liturgical year with the celebration of Advent and this year we are reading selections from the Gospel of Matthew. If you go to the beginning of the gospel of Matthew you will find a detailed list of the people that make up the relatives of Jesus. It's only in the Gospel of Matthew that we read this genealogy. There you will find some are some very interesting names—Zerubbabel, Shealtiel, Jehoshaphat, Uzziah—not exactly among the favorite names for children these days. And among all of them you will find some very interesting characters—liars and cheaters like Rebecca and her son Jacob who pulled the wool over the eyes of Isaac and tricked him into giving his birthright to Jacob, the younger son, when, by rights, it should have gone to his older brother Esau.

There were outright murderers—Moses who fled Egypt because he had killed an Egyptian soldier only to return to Egypt to free the Israelites from slavery. Then there was David, the youngest of Jesse's son that no one thought worthy of anything. Yet he is chosen and anointed. Then he kills Goliath, the great enemy of the Israelites and becomes the great King David. But David falls in love with Bathsheba, the wife of his general Uriah. Bathsheba becomes pregnant and David tries to fix this by arranging things so that Uriah dies in battle. The son born out of this union is none other than Solomon, reputed to be the wisest king of all. Get your bibles out and read these stories—you can't make them up!

But here we are putting them out front for everyone to see. God, it seems, does not have any problem working with people who have very messy and imperfect lives. As St. Augustine tells us, "there are no saints without a past and no sinners without a future."

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### SEEING "NEW THINGS" FROM THE PERIPHERY

*Address of Pope Leo XIV to  
participants in the world meeting  
of Popular Movements*

This is the first time that I have the joy to meet you, continuing on the path opened up by Pope Francis who, in these years, often dialogued with your reality, shining light on its prophetic importance in the context of a world characterized by various kinds of problems.

One of the reasons I chose the name "Leo XIV" is the Encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, written by Leo XIII during the industrial revolution. The title *Rerum Novarum* means "new things." There are certainly "new things" in the world but, when we say this, we generally adopt a "view from the center" and refer to things like artificial intelligence or robotics. However, today I would like to look at the "new things" with you, taking a view from the periphery.



#### SEEING THE "NEW THINGS" FROM THE PERIPHERY

More than ten years ago, here in the Vatican, Pope Francis said that you were here to plant a flag. What was written on it? "Land, housing, and work." This was a "new thing" for the Church, and it was a good thing! Echoing Francis' words, I say today: land, housing, and work are sacred rights. It is

*(Continued on page 3)*

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4 PM MASS WITH CHILDREN

9 PM CHRISTMAS MASS AT NIGHT

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

MASS AT 9:00 AM

#### NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31 AT 5 PM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1 AT 8 AM





## REMEMBERING

*Lee Askins*

SEPTEMBER 16, 1946—NOVEMBER 6, 2025

He was born “Alfred” Askins on September 16, 1946 in Tell City, Indiana. To most of us, he was simply known as “Lee” Askins. In time his family would move to Evansville where Lee attended several different elementary schools in the area before graduating from Reitz High School, where, among other things, he was a member of the band.

Ever the industrious person, Lee got to know Andy Gaugenti who owned the local Farmer’s Daughter Restaurants. Lee took great pride in recalling his days at the restaurant where he learned all the different jobs and ended up as a shift manger for several of the restaurants. As he recalled, “since I knew all the jobs, I pretty much went where they needed the most help.”

When Lee graduated from high school in 1964, the war in Vietnam was becoming more and more a front page news items. Lee always had a great love for our country and it was no surprise that he soon joined the army.

His time in the military would be one of the defining events in his life. He volunteered to serve two tours during the war. First he served in an infantry unit where he came to experience the bonds that can only be forged in the crucible of combat. But Lee’s commitment did not end there. He returned for a second tour, this time taking to the skies as a helicopter pilot—one of the most hazardous roles of the entire war. He flew aircraft like the iconic UH-1 Huey, flying into “hot” landing zones to deliver troops and flying MEDEVAC missions to rescue the wounded. It was a role that required absolute nerves of steel.

Those times were not only difficult for Lee but also for his mother Lulu and his step-father William Townsend. As a soldier in war, Lee saw and experienced an intensity of emotions that few of us can really comprehend. For the rest of his life, he carried the trauma of being in war with him.

After his tours in Vietnam, Lee made the military his career before retiring as a Major after twenty years of service. When he returned home, Lee began a second career of service to others by serving as a Deputy Sheriff for Vanderburgh County before retiring in 2005.

It was toward the end of his career in the Sheriff Department that he met a school teacher named Toni Stricker. They were married at St. Benedict Church with their friend, Fr. Gregory Chamberlin, OSB officiating at the wedding.

### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES DECEMBER 17th and 19th

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, I invite you to come to our Advent Penance Services, Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00 pm and Friday, December 19th at 11:00 am. Please come as we pray for forgiveness for ourselves and our world.

I will also be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation privately each Saturday from 4-4:45 for those who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity. If these times are not convenient, please call/text (812.499.9074) and I will make a time available to you that is convenient.

*Fr. Gene Schroeder*

### INTERESTED IN CURSILLO? COMPLETED YOUR CURSILLO? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Cursillo is a Catholic movement that aims to help people discover their personal relationship with Christ and live out their faith joyfully and authentically.

The method of the movement is to form small groups of Christians who meet in a friendship group to share their lives as Christians. A four-day encounter is a part of the movement that prepares the Christian to live out his or her faith. They are held in the spring and fall each year and last from Thursday evening through Sunday evening.

If you are interested in making a Cursillo, have questions, or are looking for a sponsor, please contact Cale Schnaus at 812-774-0732 or Rachael Schnaus at 812-499-8248.

If you have completed your Cursillo, we would love to know if you are grouping. If so, where and when are you grouping and if you are willing to accept any new Cursillistas? If you are not grouping, but would like to find a group to join, we will help get you into a group. Thank you for your help in keeping the Cursillo movement alive!



In time, Lee and Toni would move to a home on St. Joe Road which Lee had originally purchased for his daughter. Since this home was just a short distance from our parish, Lee and Toni became members of St. Joseph and soon were offering their time and energy for a wide variety of activities. Lee was one of our faithful Eucharistic Ministers at the Saturday evening Mass and also helped to bring communion to people in the hospital and in the nursing home. Lee also served on the Parish Council and could always be counted on to help with our chicken dinners and fish fries. If you came to the Senior Citizens Gathering, you could find Lee joining in a good game of clabber.

Lee was also involved with the planning and execution of Wisdom Day Celebrations throughout the diocese. Lee and Toni also gave their time and support to the work of vocations through their involvement in the Serra Club of Evansville. And, for a time, helped to coordinate the Senior Citizens Gatherings at St. Paul’s United Church of Christ. One of Lee’s great loves, in his last years, was to visit other veterans, especially those in nursing homes. As a person who “had been there,” he could bring a sense of compassion and understanding that others might not be able to do.

In the last few years of his life, Lee dealt with a growing number of health issues. Chief among them was dealing with bladder cancer. He underwent a major surgery procedure at the IU Medical Center in Indianapolis. Coming home, the hope was that he would have some quality time with Toni and his family and friends. While there were some good times, his health challenges continued and he found himself recuperating in nursing homes. For a brief time he was able to return home, but for the past several weeks he was back at Brickyard Healthcare-Brentwood Care Center. It was there that he died on the morning of November 5th.

We give thanks for the blessing that Lee was to Toni, his daughters Nicole and Andrea Askins, his grandchildren Samantha, Philip, Hannah and Caster and his brother, Michael Townsend. And we give thanks for the blessing his was to our parish and to our country through his service in the military. We pray now that God will grant him the blessings of a good life, well lived.

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**The peripheries often call for justice, and you cry out, to find solutions in a society dominated by unjust systems.**

worthwhile to fight for them, and I would like you to hear me say, "I am here," "I am with you!"

Is asking for land, housing, and work for the excluded a "new thing?" As far as the centers of world power are concerned, certainly not. Someone with financial security and a comfortable house can consider these demands as already met in one way or another. Truly "new" things would be autonomous vehicles, clothing and items of the latest fashion, high-end cell phones, crypto currencies, and other such things.

From the peripheries, however, things appear differently. The banner that you unfurl is so relevant that it merits an entire chapter in Christian social thought on the excluded in today's world.

This is the viewpoint that I want to convey: the new things seen from the periphery, and the fact that in your efforts you do not limit yourselves to protesting, but also look for solutions. The peripheries often call for justice, and you cry out, not out of desperation but out of desire. Yours is a cry to find solutions in a society dominated by unjust systems. And you do this, not with microprocessors or biotechnologies but, at a more elementary level, with the beauty of artistry. This is poetry: you are "social poets."

Today you bring the banner of land, housing, and work once again, walking together from a social center to the Vatican. Walking together testifies to the vitality of the popular movements as builders of solidarity in diversity. The Church must be with you: a poor Church for the poor, a Church that reaches out, a Church that takes risks, a Church that is courageous, prophetic, and joyful!

What I consider most important is that your service be animated by love. I know of similar realities and experiences present in other countries, true community spaces full of faith, hope and especially love, which remains the greatest virtue of all. In fact, when cooperatives and projects are formed to feed the hungry, give shelter to the homeless, rescue the shipwrecked, provide daycare, create jobs, access land, and build houses; remember that we are not serving an ideology but truly living the Gospel.

At the heart of the Gospel, in fact, is the commandment of love, and Jesus told us that, in the faces and injuries of the poor, is hidden his own face. It is beautiful to see that the popular movements, even before the requirement of jus-

## IT'S LOTTERY TIME



**THE 2026 ST. JOE MONTHLY LOTTERY TICKETS** are now available. \$1350 to be given away each month. Only 500 tickets will be sold. Look for an invitation in the mail for your opportunity to participate. Cost is \$75.

**48 CHANCES TO WIN BIG BUCKS!!  
GET YOUR TICKET TODAY--\$75**

**THE 2026 MATER DEI/MEMORIAL TREASURE THE TRADITION LOTTERY TICKETS** are also now available. Ticket are \$100. Every month there are four prizes totaling \$13,000 to be given away. Need a ticket? Contact Margie Hartman 812-453-6826 or contact our Parish office 812-963-3273.

tice, are moved by the desire of love, against any individualism and prejudice.

As a Bishop in Peru, I am happy to have experienced a Church that accompanies people in their sorrows, in their joys, in their struggles, and in their hopes. This is an antidote to the spreading structural indifference that does not take seriously the drama of people who are stripped, robbed, sacked, and reduced to poverty. We often feel powerless before all of this. Yet we must begin to counter what I have called the "globalization of powerlessness" with a "culture of reconciliation" and commitment. The popular movements fill this gap, generated by the lack of love, with the great miracle of solidarity, founded on the care of neighbor and on reconciliation.

As I was saying, the normal discourse on "new things" — with their potentials and their dangers — omits what is happening on the periphery. At the center, there is little awareness of the problems that strike the excluded. In discussions of politics and economics, one has the impression that this is "a question which gets added almost out of duty or in a tangential way, if not treated merely as collateral damage. Indeed, when all is said and done, they frequently remain at the bottom of the pile." The poor, on the contrary, are at the center of the Gospel. Therefore, marginalized communities, must be involved in a collective and united effort aimed at reversing the dehumanizing trend of social injustices and promoting integral human development.

**At the heart of the Gospel,  
is the commandment of love,  
and Jesus told us that, in the  
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is hidden his own face.**

In fact, as long as the problems of the poor are not radically resolved by rejecting the absolute autonomy of markets and financial speculation and by attacking the structural causes of inequality, no solution will be found for the world's problems or, for that matter, to any problems. Inequality is the root of social ills.

### OLD INJUSTICES IN THE NEW WORLD

Your effort is ever more necessary in a world that, as we know, is ever more globalized; as Benedict XVI affirmed "the processes of globalization, suitably understood and directed, open up the unprecedented possibility of large-scale redistribution of wealth on a world-wide scale; if badly directed, however, they can lead to an increase in poverty and inequality, and could even trigger a global crisis."

This means that the dynamisms of progress should always be

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## TUITION ASSISTANCE AT MATER DEI

Applications are now available for parents wishing to apply for Mater Dei High School Tuition assistance for the 2025-2026 school year. Hard copies of applications will be available at Mater Dei and at our school. To download and complete the application online at [www.materdeiwildcats.com](http://www.materdeiwildcats.com); nancia select "Enrollment", then "Tuition and Fil Assistance". The priority deadline for applying this year is March 1, 2026. Contact Jill Seiler at Mater Dei (812-426-2258, ext. 322 or email her at [jseiler@evdio.org](mailto:jseiler@evdio.org)



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## CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS



Again this year you are invited to remember your loved ones in a special way at Christmas by including their name(s) in the Christmas Flower Memorials. Please send the name or names of people you want to remember to the parish office along with your donation to the parish office by Dec. 16. The names will be printed in the Christmas bulletin.

managed through an ethic of responsibility, overcoming the risk of idolizing profit and always putting the human person and one's integral development at the center. The "human" is at the heart of Saint Augustine's vision of an ethic of responsibility. He teaches how responsibility, especially in dealing with the poor and with those who have material needs, is born from human persons with their own similar needs and, therefore, from the recognition of our common humanity.

Since we all share in the same humanity, we should ensure that "what's new" be managed in an appropriate way. The question should not remain only in the hands of the political, scientific or academic elites, but rather should involve all of us. The creativity that God has given human beings and that has generated considerable progress in many realms, has not yet succeeded in addressing the challenges of poverty and so reversing the course that continues dramatically excluding millions of



people who remain on the margins. This is a central point in the debate on "new things."

When my predecessor Leo XIII wrote *Rerum Novarum* at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, he did not concentrate on

industrial technology or on new sources of energy, but rather on the situation of workers. Here resides the evangelical power of his message: his attention was turned most of all to the situation of the poor and the oppressed of that time. For the first time and with absolute clarity, a Pope said that the daily struggle for survival and for social justice were of fundamental importance for the Church. Leo XIII denounced the submission of the majority to the power of comparatively few; so that a small number of very rich men have been able to lay upon the teeming masses of the laboring poor a yoke little better than that of slavery itself. This was the great inequality of the epoch.

In Leo XIII's Encyclical, we do not find the words "unemployment" or "exclusion" because, at the time, the problems concerned rather the improvement of workers' conditions, exploitation, the urgency of a new social harmony and a new political balance, objectives that were gradually achieved

### ALTAR SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY

THURSDAY DECEMBER 11 at 6 PM

All women of the parish are invited to Join. Call Susie Schapker (812-483-4799) or Donna Dipple (812-963-6911) for reservations.

If you choose, you can bring a gift for a state hospital patient. This should be wrapped and marked for gender as well as size. No glass containers of any kind.

The Altar Society is extending the invitation to bring gifts for state hospital patients to the entire parish. There will be a box at the front doors of the church in which you can place your gifts. Thanks!



Parents Night Out is coming— Saturday December 13th from 6-9 pm. Children are welcome to come for a night IN while parents can enjoy a night OUT!. We will have dinner, decorate Christmas cookies, play Christmas games, and watch a Christmas movie! Jr. High and High School students are welcome to help. (Receive a school free dress pass for helping.) If you are interested, please contact Jessica Reckelhoff (812-598-1151) to register by Dec. 8th. \$10.00 per child.

thanks to many labor laws and social security institutions. Today, however, exclusion is the new face of social injustice. The gap between a "small minority" — 1% of the population — and the overwhelming majority has widened dramatically.

Such exclusion is a "new thing" that Pope Francis denounced as the "throwaway culture" affirming vehemently: "The excluded are not the 'exploited' but the outcast, the 'leftovers.'" When we speak of exclusion, we are also faced with a paradox. The lack of land, food, housing, and dignified work coexists with access to new technologies that have spread everywhere through the globalized markets. Cell phones, social networks and even artificial intelligence are in the pockets of millions of persons, including the poor. Still, while ever more people have access to the internet, primary needs remain unmet. Let us ensure that, when these more sophisticated needs are met, fundamental needs are not neglected.

Such systemic arbitrariness results in people being deprived of what they need and submerged in what is superfluous. In brief, poor management generates and increases inequalities under the pretext of progress. And by not placing human dignity at the center, the system fails also in justice.

### THE IMPACT OF "NEW THINGS" ON THE EXCLUDED

Today I am not going to describe in detail what these "new things" are that have been produced in particular by the centers of technical development. But we know that they have an impact on all the principle areas of social life: health, schooling, work, transportation, urbanization, communication, security, defense, etc. Many of these impacts are ambivalent, in that they are positive for some countries and sectors, while others suffer "collateral damage." Once again, this is the result of the "poor management" of technological progress.

The climate crisis is perhaps the clearest example. We see it in every extreme meteorological event, whether floods, drought, tsunamis or earthquakes. Who suffers the most? Always the poorest. They lose what little they have when the water sweeps away their houses, and they are often forced to abandon them without having a suitable alternative to restart their lives. The same thing happens when, for example, peasants, farmers, and indigenous populations lose their lands, their cultural identity and their sustainable local production because of the desertification of their territory.

Another aspect of the "new things" that strikes particularly the marginalized has to do with the yearning and the hopes of

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the poorest concerning the lifestyles that are constantly promoted today. For example, how can a poor young person live with hope and without anxiety when social media constantly exalts an unbridled consumerism and a totally unrealizable level of economic success?

Another problem not often recognized is represented by addiction to digital gambling. The platforms are designed to create compulsive addiction and generate addictive habits that create addiction.

I do not want to remain silent on the pharmaceutical industry as a “new thing” which certainly represents great progress for some but not without ambiguity. In the current culture, aided by advertising and publicity, a cult of physical wellbeing is being promoted, almost an idolatry of the body and, in this vision, the mystery of pain is reduced to something totally inhuman. This can lead to dependence on pain medications, the sale of which obviously goes to increasing the profits of the same pharmaceutical companies. This also leads to dependence on opioids, as has been devastating particularly in the United States. For example, fentanyl, the drug of death, is the second most common cause of death among the poor in that country. The spread of increasingly lethal synthetic drugs is not only a crime involving trafficking of drugs, but really has to do with the production of pharmaceuticals and their profit, which lack a global ethic.

I would also like to emphasize that the development of new technologies of information and telecommunication depends on minerals that are often found in the subsoil of poor countries. Without coltan from the Democratic Republic of Congo, for example, many of the technological devices we use today would not exist. Still, its extraction depends on paramilitary violence, child labor, and the displacement of populations. Lithium is another example: competition among the great powers and the large corporations for its extraction represents a grave menace to the sovereignty and the stability of poor states, to the point that some contractors and politicians boast of promoting coups and other forms of political destabilization, in order to get their hands on the “white gold” of lithium.

Finally, I would like to mention the issue of security. States have the right and the duty to protect their borders, but this should be balanced by the moral obligation to



Prepare your heart and mind this Lent 2026 with an inspirational Women's Retreat. Beginning Saturday, March 7 from 9:00am-9:00pm and ending on Sunday, March 8 with 10:30 am Mass. Adoration, guest

speakers, live reflective music, rosary, a spa hour, confession, and Mass. What a great way to enter into the busy Lenten season. You are welcome to come and pray for as long as you can. Contact Jessica Reckelhoff at 812-598-1151 jreckelhoff@evdio.org or Rachel Schnaus rschnaus@yahoo.com for information and/or to register.

**THANKS....**I wanted to extend a HUGE thank you to all of you who helped fill and mail the college care packages this fall!! Not only did you help fill over 65 packages, you helped in donating \$350 towards mailing the packages! A special thanks to Melanie Denning; \$250 of the donated funds came from her for the mailing of the college packages...thank you Melanie! Also, thanks to Fr. Gene and the 5th grade class for filling, sorting, and delivering the remaining packages to my office.

*Jessica Reckelhoff*



provide refuge. With the abuse of vulnerable migrants, we are witnessing, not the legitimate exercise of national sovereignty, but rather grave crimes committed or tolerated by the state. Ever more inhumane measures are being adopted – even celebrated politically – that treat these “undesirables” as if they were garbage and not human beings. Christianity, on the other hand, refers to the God who is love, who creates us and calls us to live as brothers and sisters.

At the same time, I am encouraged to see how popular movements, organizations of civil society and the Church are addressing these new forms of dehumanization, constantly testifying that whoever is in need is our neighbor, our brother and our sister. This makes you champions of humanity, witnesses to justice, poets of solidarity.

#### THE JUST STRUGGLE OF POPULAR MOVEMENTS

In *Rerum Novarum*, Leo XIII observed that “the ancient workmen's guilds were abolished in the last century, and no other protective organization took their place.” The poor had become more vulnerable and less protected. Something similar is happening today, because the unions typical of the 20 century represent an ever-smaller percentage of workers and, in many countries, the social safety-nets are in crisis. Neither the unions nor the employers' associations, neither states nor international organizations, seem capable of addressing these problems. But “a state without justice is not a state,” as Saint Augustine reminds us. Justice requires that the institutions of each state be at the service of every social class and of all residents, harmonizing the diverse interests and demands.

Once again, we find ourselves facing an ethical void into which evil easily enters. I am reminded of a parable, the parable of the unclean spirit which is cast out but then returns to find its former dwelling clean and tidy, and then organizes an even worse aggression (Mt 12, 43-45). In this orderly void, the evil spirit is free to act. The social institutions of the past were not perfect, but discarding a large proportion of them and adorning what remains with ineffectual laws and unimplemented agreements, the system leaves people more vulnerable than before.

Therefore, popular movements, along with persons of good will, Christians, believers and governments are called with urgency to fill this void, establishing processes of justice and solidarity that spread throughout society, because, as I have already affirmed, “illusions distract us; preparations guide us. Illusions seek a result; preparations make an encounter possible.”

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In the Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te*, I recall that “various popular movements made up of lay people and led by popular leaders, [...] have often been viewed with suspicion and even persecuted.” Still, your struggles under the banner of land, housing and efforts for a better world deserve encouragement. And as the Church accompanied the formation of union leaders in the past, today we ought to accompany the popular movements. This means accompanying humanity, walking together in shared respect for human dignity and in the common desire for justice, love and peace.

The Church supports your just struggles for land, housing and work. Like my predecessor Francis, I believe that just ways begin from the ground up, from the periphery toward the center. Your many and creative initiatives can become new public policies and social rights. Yours is a legitimate and necessary effort. May the seeds of love, which you sow, tiny as mustard seeds, grow into a world that is more human for everyone and help to manage the “new things” better.

The Church and I want to be close to you on this journey. Let us continue to raise our prayers to Almighty God. Joining with you in prayer, we implore the Father of all mercy to protect you and fill you with his inexhaustible love. In his infinite goodness, may God give you the prophetic courage of the Gospel, perseverance in the struggle, hope in your hearts and poetic creativity. I entrust you to the maternal guidance of Mary Most Holy. And from the depths of my heart, I bless you.

Thank you, thank you all! Keep going on the way, with joy and with hope!

**SNOW REMOVAL CREWS:** We're looking for people to help with snow removal. If you are willing to be part of this group and/or have some equipment that could be used to clear snow, call the parish office (812-963-3273) or (812-499-9074). We'll get a list together and then, when we know it might snow, we can call folks and coordinate our snow removal efforts. Every little bit helps! Thanks, in advance, for your help!



## LITURGICAL MINISTERS December 21, 2024- January 12, 2025

DATE	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTOR
Saturday December 20, 2025 5 PM	Mary Loehrlein Carolyn Hutchinson Toni Askins	Jim Hermann
Sunday December 21, 2025 8 AM	Brian and Ann Craney Terry Drone Lisa Cook Rodney and Paula Baehl	Marcia Frey
Sunday December 21, 2025 10:30 AM	Debra Baumgart Sally Kempf Cecelia Koch Kitty Deig	Shane Wessel
Christmas Eve December 24, 2025 Children's Mass with Children 4 pm	Peter & Jodi Fehrenbacher Brandon & Donald Werner Diane Woods Rachel Schnaus, Diane Woods	SPECIAL
Christmas Eve December 24, 2025 Mass at Night 9 pm	Carolyn Hutchison, Donna Niemeier, Darlene Appler Lisa Cook	Chick Duncan
Christmas Day December 25, 2025 9 AM	Rodney & Paula Baehl Imogene Baehl Dolores Folz	Tom Folz
Saturday December 27, 2025 5 PM	Donald & Brandon Werner Mary Kay Fehrenbacher Donna Niemeier	Toni Askins
Sunday December 28, 2025 8 AM	Marcia Frey Darlene Appler Kylie & Stephanie Frey	Dave Schmitt
Sunday December 28, 2025 10:30 AM	Paul Hillenbrand Amy Cody Jena Wessel Rachael Schnaus	Chad Martin
Saturday January 3, 2026 5:00 PM	Eric and Karen McDonald Butch and Linda Feulner	Sis Jarboe
Sunday January 4, 2026 8 AM	Tom and Dolores Folz Jalane Weber Michael Elpers	Tom Blythe
Sunday January 4, 2026 10:30 AM	Becky Doshier Shane Wessel Steve Jung Debra Baumgart	Steve Jung
Saturday January 10, 2025 5 PM	Diane Woods Eric Reffett Peter & Jodi Fehrenbacher	Jim Hermann
Sunday January 11, 2026 8 AM	Imogene Baehl Chick Duncan Randy and Kathy Fehrenbacher	Terri Drone
Sunday January 11, 2026 10:30 AM	Diane Bassemier Doris Taylor Danielle Weledge Al Debes	Jane Scheller

## REMEMBERING ST. JOSEPH PARISH WITH AN END OF THE YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS



As we come to the end of the year, it is important that we do all that we can to keep our parish financially healthy, here are some special ways to support the work of our parish through your financial contributions:

- Make a special contribution to our weekly collections. Your special gift will help us “catch up” to our weekly budgeted needs
- Consider making a gift to one of the thirty-three endowments set up through the Carpenter Society. These endowments provide money for the upkeep of our cemetery, school, outreach ministries and the general needs of our parish



- Make a contribution to the Choice Scholarship Program (SGO) for our school. Donors are eligible to take advantage of a 50% credit against their state tax liability for contributions made to Choice Scholarship, (SGO). However much you give, half of that amount can be deducted from your state taxes. In addition, your full contribution can also be deducted for federal tax purposes. You can also make a donation of stock which will enable you to avoid paying capital gains tax.



You can make your contribution on line. Simply go to the website <http://www.i4qed.org/sgo>. Click on “donate online” and follow the simple directions. Be sure to designate “St. Joseph Evansville” as the school so that your gift will directly benefit us.

For more information about all these opportunity call Fr. Gene Schroeder (812-963-3273 or call/text 812-499-9074)



# UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL INTRODUCING OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



## David Altstadt

Family, school, wrestling, work and time for hunting are all parts of David's life. David is a senior at Mater Dei High School and the son of Chip and Megan Altstadt. He is the older brother to Caroline, a freshman at Mater Dei and Charlotte, a sixth grader at St. Joseph Grade School.

David's day begins early with a session of weight lifting at 5:30 am. Then its off to school at Mater Dei for the morning. In the afternoon he goes to the Southern Indiana Career and Technical center where he is doing some hands on learning about heating and air conditioning system. Then it is time for wrestling practice, and finally coming back home to do school homework.

During his years at Mater Dei, David has focused on his academic classes. Over the years he has been blessed with some good models among the teachers. Mrs. Helfrich, who teaches biology was one of them. "I always got the sense that she wanted you to do the best you could." Understandably, his wrestling coach and theology teacher, Mr. Schaefer, has also been a big influence. "He's good at applying the lessons you learn in wrestling with being a good Christian. Both involve a lot a mental toughness and the ability to deal with the challenges that come up in life.

During the second semester of his senior year, David will also be doing a paid internship with a local business. In his case, it will be working at Altstadt Hoffman Plumbing. It's the company his grandfather started and now his dad is helping to run. He's been working there for the last couple of years and getting to know all the ins and outs of running a business and learning the plumbing trade. Next year, David plans on continuing to work with at Altstadt Hoffman and beginning his three year apprenticeship with the local Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 136. David's long term plan is to join his dad working at the family plumbing business.

A big part of David's life through high school has been being part of the wrestling team. He's been wrestling since kindergarten and has been part of the Maurer-Coughlin Wrestling Club since he was in 5th grade. This year he is training to wrestle at 138lb. "Wrestling can teach you a lot of things—mental toughness, pushing through things, especially when they are difficult, and learning how to support others." Being part of the MC Wrestling Club has given him the chance to know and wrestle against a lot of other guys his age, most of whom he will face when wrestling for Mater Dei. "You spend a lot of time with teammates from early morning weight training to daily practices and then going to all the different wrestling matches. It's a chance to build some great friendships."

David also enjoys the chance to do some hunting and fishing as well. Hunting ducks and doves are a big thing each year. Enjoying a freshly grilled dove breast wrapped in bacon is pretty good too. He's managed to get several deer in the past years and learned how to field dress the animal. That's made for a lot of great deer jerky and salami. And David has participated in several fish tournaments, mostly fishing for bass. He gets to add his catch with others for their annual Father's Day Fish Fry.

David has great memories of his time at St. Joseph Grade School. "I had some great teachers and some great classmates. We all got along well as a class. Recesses were pretty intense because we were all so competitive." You might have seen David and several of his classmates helping at our fish fries and

our Summer Social Chicken Dinner. "It's great to be part of these events. Everyone seems to get along and work really well together." And lately, David has come to help work on some of the plumbing issues in the church and school.

Through it all, family has been a key for David. As the oldest and only boy in the family, David get's the opportunity to serve as a good role model for his sisters, Caroline and Charlotte. "My mom and dad have been a big support to all of us. They have encouraged us to try new things even when that means pushing us out of our comfort zone. My dad has been big on learning how to make smart decisions and always doing the best you can. You want to do the right thing even when no one is watching you. My mom has taught me a lot about how important it is to be kind in life, try to put yourself in another's person's shoes and try to understand where they are coming from. She's also been one who keeps telling us to put a smile on your face and not to burn any bridges with people and to have the courage to work through difficult times.

WORDS OF WISDOM: "I think some of the important things are to be dependable and do what you say you are going to do. Learning how to look people in the eye when you talk to them and learning how to speak respectfully to others is also important. Learning how to manage your time is also pretty important. Appreciating the friends you have is also a big thing for me. When my Grandpa Parkinson died, it just reminded me that people will not be around forever so you want to appreciate them while they are with you."

## Brady Kassenbrock

Life has been busy for Brady Kassenbrock, a senior at Mater Dei and the oldest child of Neal and Jessica (Adler) Kassenbrock and older brother to sisters Ella, a freshman at Mater Dei, Livi, a seventh grader at St. Joe and Logan, a fifth grader at St. Joe.

But the most exciting thing coming up for Logan was going to the Notre Dame vs. Navy Football game on November 8th. "I got the chance to go with my cousins, Easton and Mallory Luigs and their family, and I can't wait." Rooting for the Notre Dame football team has been a Kassenbrock tradition for may years!

When we sat down to talk Brady had just finished up his soccer season with Mater Dei. They made it to the championship game of the sectional but lost to their arch nemesis, Heritage Hills by the score of 3-1. Brady played soccer all four years at Mater Dei. He also played on the Mater Dei baseball team for three years as an outfielder. He played on the junior varsity last year, but was rooting for the varsity team as they made their way to the state championship game.

Being involved in sports involves lots of time for practice and getting in shape, especially when you play soccer. He played center back and left back for the team which meant he was running pretty much all the time. "You can't do that unless you do a lot of conditioning workouts. Being part of a team also gives you a chance to develop a lot of good friendships. You spend a lot of time with them at practice, enjoying prep game meals together and traveling to all the games.

Brady has put a lot of time and effort into his classes during his high school career, including several AP classes on Statistics and Environmental Science. Brady's efforts were recognized by his being selected for the National Honor Society for both his junior and senior years. This fall he was selected to attend the



## Join us Sunday

December 7

9 am -- Noon



ON THE MENU: Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs,  
Sausage, Coffee, Milk and Juice

Invite your family, friends and neighbors!

Proceeds benefit the St. Joe 8th Grade Class Project

Tomorrow's Workforce Luncheon sponsored by Mater Dei and Memorial High School. This year he is also doing a paid internship at Old National Bank where he is being introduced to the world of money and finance. That has peaked his interest in a future career in business. Next year he plans to pursue a degree in business in college. He has applied to USI and also IU. Going to IU would be following in his father's footsteps and offer the opportunity to attend the Kelly School of Business.

The men in the Kassenbrock family have a long history of following sports teams—Notre Dame in football, the St. Louis Cardinals in baseball, and IU in basketball. However, with IU's recent success in football, they may have to rethink their football allegiances!

Brady credits a lot of his success to the teachers he has had over the years. Some of the Mater Dei teachers that stand out for him are Mrs. Strehl who teaches Math and Geometry, Mr. Schaefer who teaches theology, and Mrs. Folz who teaches Literature and English. The common denominator among all of them is that they all are good at treating each student as an individual and works with them so that they can achieve their best. "They teach different subjects, but they are all good at trying to relate teaching to everyday life."

Brady also remembers the teachers he had during his grade school years at St. Joe. Mrs. Tanner and Mrs. Will were teachers he had a special fondness for. "Mrs. Daugherty really helped me as well in math which was a great foundation for all of the statistics and math classes I have taken in high school."

Grade school is also filled with great memories especially the school lunches. "It was good food, but the lunch ladies were really great. We had a pretty great class too, and we all got along well with one another. Recesses were pretty intense because we were all such competitive people."

Family is another big key for Brady. "I learned a lot from my dad about good sportsmanship. He was my coach for many years, and one of the things he taught was learning how to win with grace and to lose with grace. That's important because you are not going to win at everything you do." My mom has taught me a lot too about being respectful of others. They have both taught me about how important it is to work hard and do what you say you are going to do. They both have stressed the importance of determination in whatever you do. Learning how to stand up for what is right and be willing to take risks in life especially when it comes to trying things you may not initially want to do. They have also taught me how important it is to help out with all the things that are happening in the parish.

Hard work and determination are qualities that he has also learned from the Adler and Kassenbrock families. "I've got a lot of cousins and it is always good to get together for Christmas and Thanksgiving. There is always lots of good food and a chance to hang out with cousins. One of the big things they do is get together to make homemade vegetable soup in the fall. That event is coming up soon."

WORDS OF WISDOM: Two of the challenges I have had to

deal with are managing time between school, work, and sports. Learning how to do this well is important. The other challenge is trying to figure out what I am supposed to do in the future. Having some good friends to support you is important. Having a family that stands behind you is important too. I think I have learned a lot from being involved in sports—learning how to be a good teammate and being willing to work at things even when things are not going well. Good teammates and friends can motivate you to do your best. The other thing I am finding that is important is to enjoy the time you have in high school. High school goes by really quick so you need to appreciate the things that happen and the friends you have.

## ---SALUTING OUR YOUTH---

• Brayden Jones, Piper Fehrenbacher, Addy Wilkinson, and Brady Kassenbrock were recognized at the Tomorrow's Workforce Luncheon sponsored by Mater Dei and Memorial High School. Addy Wilkinson was selected as the recipient of the event's \$1000 scholarship.



• Addy and Alice Wilkinson helped lead the Mater Dei Girls Cross Country team to a second straight city championship and a sectional championship, the first in the school's history. They were also named to the SIAC all conference team for Cross Country.

• Congratulations to these students who were recently inducted into the National Honor Society at North Posey: Molly Luigs and at Mater Dei: Harper Atherton, Josh Baehl, Zach Bishop, Laney Fehrenbacher, Piper Fehrenbacher, Brooklyn Helmer, Braydn Jones, Brady Kassenbrock, Sadie Kassenbrock, Lexa Meredith, Owen Messal, Ima Ntewo, Owen Traylor, Grant Voelker, Addy Wilkinson, Chase Waninger, and Riley Waninger



• Congratulations to our high school band members who help lead their bands to the state band finals. Samantha Gibbs was a member of the Reitz High School Band that placed ninth in their division.



Molly Baehl, Heidi Forcum and Bailey Fehrenbacher helped lead the Mater Dei Band to a fifth place finish. Josh Baehl and Paula Baehl were members of the pit crew that assisted the band.



• Congratulations to Kylie Mitchell and Lydia our Serra Club Vocation Award Winners for this year.

## GOING CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?

## Santa says "Give them SCRIP"

*Christmas is only a few weeks away!*

Gift cards make great Christmas gifts, teacher's gifts and stocking stuffers! Purchase scrip cards for all of your holiday shopping needs! Remember, it costs you nothing extra and it benefits St. Joe School and your family!

For Scrip questions, contact the school office (812-963-3335)





## MISSION OUTREACH



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a sea of indifference.

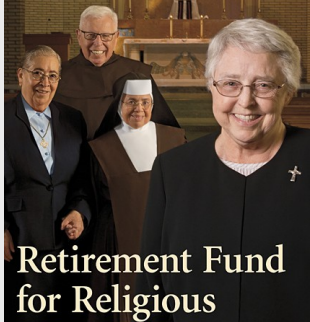
*Pope Leo*

Not all of us can do great things, but  
we can do small things with great love.

*St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

### SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS MONTH FOR THE RETIREMENT NEEDS OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

This month, Catholics throughout the United States are being invited to participate in the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.



**Retirement Fund  
for Religious**

There was a time, in the history of our parish, when the Franciscan nuns who taught in our school, went several years without receiving any pay at all. Even when they were paid, the amount of money they received was very small—about \$350 a year. Yet, they came to teach and to serve us.

Much the same can be said about the Benedictine nuns who taught many of our parishioners at Mater Dei. Now many of these women are old and in need of much care. The cost for their care far exceeds their resources. That is why we are invited to give to this special collection. Together, as a Church, we can honor their faithfulness by being faithful—and generous—in return. There are special envelopes in your regular monthly packet of envelopes.

### LET'S REMEMBER THEM AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a time for remembering the people in our family. So we'd like to invite you to join us in reaching out to people who are the members of our parish who are living in nursing homes and assisted living communities. We've listed their names and the address below.

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**Jack Fleeger**

HAMILTON POINT  
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Newburgh, IN 47630  
**Carolyn Pfaffman**

**GIVE OUR EARTH A  
GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS**  
Make recycling a  
daily part of your life

Plastic, paper, cardboard, metal cans,  
aluminum cans are all recyclable



### THIS CHRISTMAS GIVE THE GIFT OF FOOD TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN HAITI

Need a gift this holiday season for the person who has it all? Honor them by buying gifts of food for the children at our sister parish, St. James Parish, located in Plaine du Nord, Haiti. One of the things we are trying to do to support our brothers and sisters there is to provide a noon meal for the children in our grade school and high school. That's over 860 children and staff members.



Each meal costs about \$.50 per meal. It costs \$2.50 per week to feed one child, about \$10 to feed one child per month and about \$80 to feed a child for the whole year.

Another way to look at it is that it costs about \$387 per day to feed all 860 kids and staff in school. That figures out to be about \$1,935 for each week that school is in session. We figure it will cost about \$70,000 to fund a food program for the entire school year.

*Nou Fe Yon Sel Nan Jezikri*



*We are One in Jesus Christ*

That can be a bit overwhelming for sure. But with God, all things are possible, as St. Paul tell us. So here is an opportunity to honor someone at Christmas and help our children get a meal to eat during the school year. Look for the self-service station which will be located in church this month. Here you will find gift cards ranging in price from \$5-100.

Please know that you do not have to use these gift cards. You can make a donation of any amount. Just put it in the collection or send it to us through the mail. Please be sure to mark on your card or check that the money is for "Haiti Food." Questions? Please email Chad Martin at [seabeesgreat58@gmail.com](mailto:seabeesgreat58@gmail.com).

### WE ARE COLLECTING FOOD FOR THE FOOD PANTRY EACH WEEKEND. A JAR OF PEANUT BUTTER, A BAG OF RICE, A BOX OF CEREAL. IT IS ALL IMPORTANT.





















Each weekend when you participate in our food drive for the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry, you are helping to provide food for many people, especially young mothers and their children in the Evansville area! The need has become even great in recent times. Besides canned goods, cash donations are also welcome.

### HELPING FAMILIES IN NEED IN OUR PARISH

Throughout the year, we get requests for helping families in our parish. These needs include such things as rent, utility bills, medical bills, food and gas. Sometimes people want to do something for families at Christmas. One thing that families and individuals can do at Christmas or any time of the year is to make contributions to our Parish Needy Fund



<div>  <h1>December 2025</h1>  </div>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>  <p><i>Lead Us To Your Light Lead Us through our Darkness</i></p>  </div>						
 <p><b>CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL</b> HAVE YOUR MADE YOUR PLEDGE?</p>	<p><b>1</b> Boot Camp 5 am 7am–6:30pm Eucharistic Adoration  Mass 6:30 pm</p>	<p><b>2</b> 7:30 AM Mass</p> <p> <b>HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR LOTTERY TICKET FOR ST. JOE LOTTERY &amp; MATER DEI TRADITION?</b> </p>	<p><b>3</b> Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff 12 Noon That Man Is You 5:30 pm</p>	<p><b>4</b> NO MASS</p>	<p><b>5</b> Boot Camp 5am Mass at 7:30 am</p>	<p><b>6</b> Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 pm 5 pm Mass Haiti &amp; Food Pan- try Collection  <b>FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS</b></p>
<p><b>7</b> 8 &amp; 10:30 Mass Food Pantry Collection RCIA &amp; Confirmation Rite of Election Family Class 9:00   <b>Breakfast With Santa 9 am – Noon</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS 7:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration 7am-6:30pm Knights of St. John 7 pm SCHOOL MUSICAL PROGRAM 6 PM</p> 	<p><b>9</b> 7:30 am Mass</p> <p><b>DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TUESDAY 6 AM -- WEDNESDAY 6 AM</b></p>	<p><b>10</b> Boot Camp 5am 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff Meeting 12 Noon That Man Is You 5:30 pm</p>	<p><b>11</b> NO MASS Altar Society Christmas Gathering 6 pm</p>	<p><b>12</b> 7:30 am Senior Citizen's Gathering—Noon Christmas Luncheon   <b>FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE</b></p>	<p><b>13</b> Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 pm 5 pm Mass Food Pantry Collection Parent's Night Out 6-9 pm</p>
<p><b>14</b> 8 &amp; 10:30 am Mass Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30 am Food Pantry Collection</p>	<p><b>15</b> Boot Camp 5am 7am-6:30pm Eucharistic Adoration  Mass 6:30pm Men's Club 7 pm</p>	<p><b>16</b> 7:30 am Mass</p>	<p><b>17</b> Boot Camp 5am 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff 12 Noon ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE 7 PM</p>	<p><b>18</b> NO MASS Haiti Outreach 6:30 pm</p> 	<p><b>19</b> Boot Camp 5am 7:30 am Mass ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE 11 AM</p> 	<p><b>20</b> Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 pm 5 pm Mass Food Pantry Collection</p> 
<p><b>21</b> Sunday Mass 8 &amp; 10:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30 Family Religion Class 9:00</p> 	<p><b>22</b> 7am-6:30pm Eucharistic Adoration  Mass 6:30pm</p> 	<p><b>23</b> 7:30 am Mass</p> 	<p><b>24</b> Christmas Mass with Children 4 pm  Christmas Mass at Night 9 pm</p> 	<p><b>25</b> CHRISTMAS DAY MASS 9 AM</p> 	<p><b>26</b> 7:30 am Mass</p>	<p><b>27</b> Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 pm  5 pm Mass  Food Pantry Collection</p>
<p><b>28</b> 8 &amp; 10:30 Mass Food Pantry Collection</p> 	<p><b>29</b> 7am-6:30pm  Eucharistic Adoration  Mass 6:30pm</p>	<p><b>30</b> 7:30 am Mass</p> <p><b>JOIN US AS WE GIVE THE GIFT OF FOOD TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN HAITI</b></p>	<p><b>31</b> New Year's Eve Mass 5 pm</p>	<p><b>1</b> New Year's Day Mass 8 am</p> 	<p><b>2</b> 7:30 am Mass</p>	<p><b>3</b> Reconciliation 4-4:40 pm 5 pm Mass Food Pantry &amp; Haiti Collection</p> 



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### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday—5 PM**

**Sunday—8 & 10:30 AM**

Fr. Gene Schroeder—Pastor

E-mail [gschroeder@evdio.org](mailto:gschroeder@evdio.org)

Ms. Kristan Gilles—Director of Liturgy

E-mail [kgilles@evdio.org](mailto:kgilles@evdio.org)

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Mrs. Julie Kempf—Secretary

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Religious Education Coordinator

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Again and again, we are reminded that the criteria for being part of God's work is simply a willingness to allow God to work in and through our lives.

We are now entering the season of Advent a time that, at least here in the Northern Hemisphere, is accompanied by darkness, with trees and plants all going into a dormant state. We tend to look at this time as a time that nothing happens, a kind of waiting for spring to get here. But what we learn from some of the great spiritual teachers, and especially those from the Celtic tradition, is that this time of darkness is very important. It is, in fact, the time that new life begins to take hold.

Christianity used the seasons and cycles of dark and light to tell the story of the birth of Christ. But Advent is not a time when we wait for Jesus to once again be physically born again at Christmas. Rather, this is the time when we allow the Christ within us to come to life in new ways. Christian spirituality teaches us that the arrival of darkness is the moment of beginning - the start of a new day (after sunset) a new year (in autumn) and a new journey (when our lives are in a time of darkness).

Over the last couple of months we have taken a fresh look at the Gospel of Matthew and have come to understand that this Gospel was written to people who were facing great change in life. It was written in



answer to the question—how does a person deal with change in life and how does that impact our faith journey?

Times of change can be very scary and even feel very dark. No doubt we are in such a period of scary darkness in our world today. Living with dark times is nothing new in our faith tradition. All those many people who made up the genealogy of Jesus, lived in times of darkness as well. They were imperfect people who did a lot of things wrong but who also allowed God to work in and through them. And that is our challenge. We enter the darkness of our lives without fear and allow God to bring forth new life in us. The song writer Velma Frey wrote a song entitled "O Beautiful Darkness" which, I think, conveys very well the spirit of this Advent season.

*The arms of darkness hold us  
Revealing now how dear we are  
O, beautiful darkness, O, comforting darkness  
Enfold us and hold us  
Inform us, transform us  
O, beautiful darkness, O, comforting darkness  
Surround us, all around us  
And hold our light, like sky to star  
O, beautiful darkness, O, comforting darkness*



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