



THE CARPENTER

ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

VANDERBURGH COUNTY EVANSVILLE, INDIANA ESTABLISH IN 1841

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to work at our Summer
Social Chicken Dinner

JULY, 2026



CELEBRATING THE 250th ANNIVERSARY OF OUR COUNTRY

Fr. Gene Schroeder
PASTOR

I have been reading about people in leadership and how they faced the challenges before them. Of particular interest to me has been the works of the historian Doris Kerns Goodwin who wrote the book *Team of Rivals* about President Lincoln and *No Ordinary Time* about Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt during the years of World War II. In this world of growing technology I received all kinds of suggested books to read and videos to view based upon the books I have been reading. Among the videos that have been sent to me are ones that describe the reaction of German, Italian and Japanese prisoners of war who were shipped to prison camps throughout the United States. These videos follow a similar pattern. The soldiers come to the United States with preconceived notions about how bad they are going to be treated, how they were going to be given little food and even killed. And then they come and find their experiences to be totally different. They are given food and medical care and while they are also made to work, they are paid for their work. The end result is that so many of these prisoners come to understand that what they have been told about the United States is untrue and basically propaganda efforts on the part of their governments.

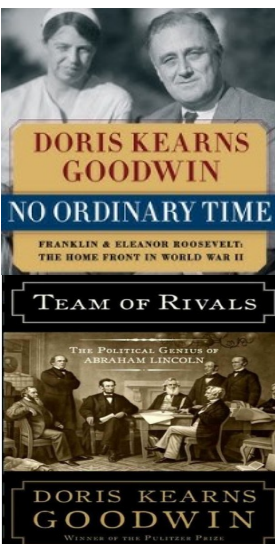
These videos are very popular, especially for those in our country. They show our country at its very best, living out the values that we like to think that our country was founded upon. We like to believe that the greatness of our country is seen most clearly in capacity to accompany, protect and love those lives that are most fragile.

There was, of course, a great effort on the part of the United States to treat prisoners of war according to the rules of warfare established first by the Geneva Convention in the late 1800's and renewed and clarified by subsequent conventions. Part of the reason we treated prisoners according to these protocols was our hope that our own soldiers who were prisoners of

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IT'S TIME TO GET READY FOR OUR DRIVE THRU CHICKEN DINNER AND GRAND RAFFLE--SUNDAY, JULY 26

This year our long time social chair couples, Megan and Chip Altstadt and Britt and Patrick Fehrenbacher, will be training our new chair couples—Jordan & Kelly Wilkerson and Jordan & Jenna Phelps. They are providing the leadership, but our social only works when every does their part.

Thanks to everyone for the great cooperation so far as we get ready for our summer social this year. In the pages of this newsletter you will find special ways to get help out. Here's a couple of days to keep in mind.



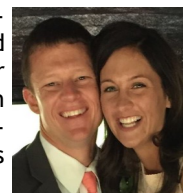
\$15,000 in prizes
1st Prize \$10,000
2nd Prize \$2,500
3rd – 6th Prizes \$500 Each
TICKETS \$25
5 /--\$100

Dinner Preparations beginning at 6 am
Set Up Carryout Line 9 am
Carryouts 10 am – 1 pm
Clean Up Begins at Noon
Workers Raffle 3 pm
Grand Raffle Drawing 3 pm

We've had a great response so far from the folks who have returned their packet of social tickets. Be sure to return your tickets before July 26. We'll have the drawing around 3 pm on July 26th.

By now, everyone in the parish should have received a letter inviting them to buy/sell tickets for our famous fried chicken dinner. We included five dinner tickets with each letter. We know many of you will want more tickets than that. We'll be happy to get them to you. Just call the parish office (812-963-3273), email us at gschroeder@evdio.org, or text us at 812-499-9074 and let us know how many tickets you need. Check with your family, friends and neighbors as well.

Winner Chicken Dinner \$15
Carryout Only 10 am -- 1 pm
BUY YOUR DINNER
TICKETS BY JULY 18



Megan and Chip Altstadt
812-204-4091



Britt and Patrick Fehrenbacher
812-480-9702



Kelly & Jordan Wilkerson
812-589-9366



Jordan & Jenna Phelps
812-204-0580

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LOOKING FOR SOME WAYS TO HELP WITH OUR SUMMER SOCIAL? CHECK THESE OUT BEFORE THE SOCIAL

DUMPLING DAY SET UP/CLEANUP CREW July 9 6 pm

Matt & Carrie Raben
Mark Messel, Dave Lappe
Ryan and Neil Kassenbrock,
are heading up this effort.

We need to set up the tables in the cafeteria prior to dumpling making day, Monday, July 14. After the dumplings have dried and are put in storage, we need to clean the kitchen and cafeteria floor. We also need to wash and dry five gallon buckets for the dried dumplings, slaw, and chicken broth.



JOIN US FOR DUMPLING MAKING DAY MONDAY JULY 13 7 AM

No Sign-Up Required!

Just Come and Join us

Bring a rolling pin and/or
pizza cutter. No
experience required.
You'll be an
expert in no time.



BAGGING COOKIES July 23 5 pm

We're making some
delicious chocolate chip
cookies for our
dessert. And we need your
help putting them in special
bags. Amy Back is in the
charge of this. Call her 812-746
-7900 for details and let her
know you can help.



SET UP THE KITCHEN AND CAFETERIA

July 23, 6 pm



We need to set up the serving
lines and put cardboard on the
floor in the kitchen, chicken
frying area and in the cafeteria where
the serving lines will be.



DINNER PREP Friday, July 24

Beginning at 8 am

Come help us clean vegetables, debone
chicken, and prepare the ingredients
for dressing. Traditionally we
have not had a sign up
sheet for this day. So,
come for an hour or two
or the whole morning.



MAKING AND PACKAGING THE SLAW July 24 at Noon

Natalie (812-598-1109) and
Jessica (812-480-1938) Kassenbrock,
"the slaw sisters" are chairing this
effort. Come help them
chop the cabbage,
carrots, celery and
peppers. And then help
package our slaw in our
famous sweet 'n sour sauce.



SET UP THE DRIVE THROUGH AREA SATURDAY, JULY 25

We can use your help Saturday
morning setting up the drive thru lanes
and putting out all signs directing
traffic for the drive thru area.

CLEAN CHICKENS SATURDAY 1 PM

We will meet in the
storage building



SUNDAY JULY 26

CHICKEN FRYERS

1st shift 6:00 am—10 am

Gary Fehrenbacher (Chair)
812-449-8490

Keith Fehrenbacher (Co-Chair)
812-499-3000

Zach Fehrenbacher—812-483-4785

Chris Fehrenbacher—812-449-3006

Sam Fehrenbacher—812-963-9557

Bob Fehrenbacher—812-453-0669

Patrick & Brittany

Fehrenbacher—812-430-9861

Joe Fritch—812-455-7807

Ron Miller—812-963-3522

Andy Jarboe—812-306-4857

Bud Jarboe—812-453-4857

Stan Love—812-963-6512

Mary Kay Fehrenbacher
812-453-0819

Amy Tenbarger—812-598-9980

Tony Tenhumberg—812-453-2506

Sally Kempf—812-963-9568

2nd shift 10:00 AM



Randy Fehrenbacher
(Chair) 812-453-9357

Kathy Fehrenbacher
812-963-3052

Tom & Debbie Clem—812-459-6729

John & Gail Maurer—812-963-6273

Mike Maurer—812-963-9444

Ryan & Laura Maurer 812-963-9444

Donald & Holly Maurer—812-568-5379

James, Shelly & Emma Ruedlinger
812-459-2053

Randy Tenbarger—812-204-5139

Brent & Kelley Lyke—812-401-0803

Ashley Gaiser—812-319-9497

Mike Ennis—812-963-9575

Bill Steiner—912-963-1959

Sherry Genet—812-483-1817

Tim Mayer—812-484-9153

WE NEED YOU!

COOKING DUMPLINGS

Kelly Pennington Chair 812-963-8168
 Kevin Pennington 812-963-8168
 Kevin Hartz—812-963-8479
 Becky Raben—812-204-4091
 Jeannine Shumate —812-963-6772

**PUTTING DUMPLINGS INTO CONTAINERS**

Cindy Schmitt Chair 812-305-2531
 Debbie Collins
 Joan Stewart
 Kristan Gilles
 Dolores Folz
 Diane Bassmeier
 Marlene Voelker
 Donna Niemeier
 Dorothy Happe

**DRESSING**

Sharon Hollingsworth (Chair)
 812-867-9467
 Michelle Reffett
 812-963-8110
 Paula Gibson
 812-626-0452



Jan Tenbarger 812-642-0025

GRAVY

Julianna Voelker
 (Chair)
 812-963-3307
 Kelly Messal

**POTATOES**

Matt Voelker
 812-431-1789

**CORN and GREEN BEANS**

Tim Voelker
 Chair
 812-499-5296
 Heath Stewart
 Co-Chair

**WASHING POTS AND PANS**

Randy Kuester (chair)
 812-963-515
 Brian & Brendan Elpers 812-204-6906
 Jason & Emily Smith 812-4703-3025
 Clay Allison 812-963-3359
 Phil Hartig 812-985-9555
 Ryan Niemeier 812-963-9062

**PREPARE CARRYOUT DINNERS
COME TO THE CAFETERIA AT 9 AM
ON SUNDAY TO START WORKING**

Don Werner Chair

We need people to:

- bring the food from the kitchen
- put the different food items in the carryout containers,
- put the dinner in carryout bags
- Show up on Sunday Morning at 9 am to help

**DRIVE THRU PICK-UP**

Peter Fehrenbacher
 812-568-9858



Ron Eickhoff
 Co- Chairs
 We'll need help getting the dinners from the cafeteria to the carryout

are and then distributing to the folks who are coming to pick up their dinners. This is a great place for our grade school students

**IS YOUR NAME ON THE SOCIAL WORKERS LIST?**

Contact any of the chairpersons to offer your help

**to help.
TRAFFIC CONTROL**

To help facilitate the smooth flow of cars through our carryout, we will need some folks to direct

traffic at strategic places on the parish campus.

Ron Ubelhor—812-618-5685 Chair
 Don Baumgart—812-963-0908
 Al Debes—812-459-5783
 Jim Helmer—812-457-6420
 Nick Helmer—812-303-1669
 Morgan Jones—812-430-0333
 John Koch—812-963-9257
 Jim Scheller—812-963-3047
 Steve, Joe & Jacob Scheller
 812-319-4828
 Tom Strupp—812-963-6067

**DINNER TICKETS**

Tom Elsner Chair 270-957-0126
 We need help collecting the dinner tickets. We also need folks who can sell raffle tickets to those coming to pick up dinners.

**CLEAN UP CREW**

Andy Reckelhoff, (812-760-0342)
 Jordan Wilkerson, Steve Jung, Rodney Baehl



We will need to clean up the kitchen and cafeteria, remove all the cardboard, clean the floors, put all the cafeteria tables and chairs in place to be ready for school and clean all the bathrooms on the first floor. We will start cleaning up at noon on Sunday

COME JOIN US FOR OUR AFTER SOCIAL PARTY

We'll gather after we have finished cleaning up. We'll have some burgers, brauts and hot dogs, drinks and chips, (and maybe some left over fried chicken, dressing and dumplings).

It's a great chance to relax, swap stories with other parishioners and just enjoy each other's company. At 3 pm we'll draw the winners of our grand raffle.



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REMEMBERING

Janet Zirkelbach

February 14, 1951–April 24, 2026

Janet was a woman of great passions—for her dogs Sadie and Dakota, NASCAR racing, watching game shows and NCIS. She had a great compassion for her work as a CPA and all the clients she worked with. But perhaps her greatest passions were her husband Ted, her daughters Michelle and Nicole and her grandchildren Hunter, Trinity, Kynlee, Tayshaun and great-

granddaughter, Taylani.

Janet was born on February 14, 1951, the daughter of Bill and Agnes Weikel. Along with her brother Jerry, they lived on the near north side of Evansville and were members of St. Theresa Parish. It was there that Janet attended and graduated from grade school. She then moved on to Rex Mundi High School where she graduated in 1969.

Following high school, Janet attended and graduated Western Kentucky University. Although Janet attended high school at the same time as her husband to be, Zed Zirkelbach, they would eventually get together and were married on May 26, 1973 at St. John Church.

The early years of their married life took them to live outside of Evansville. In time, job opportunities would bring them back home. They settled into home on St. Wendel Road which became the place where they would welcome and raise their daughters. As their daughters grew, Janet would spend her time and energy assisting them in all manner of activities through their grade school years. At the time, Ted and Janet and their family were members of Resurrection Parish and it was there that their daughters attended school. Janet would offer her help in all manner of fundraising efforts for the school and the parish. Those skills of organization were considerable as was her strong will and determination. She had definite ideas about how things should be done and was not shy about sharing them with others.

In time, Janet would return to school to get her accounting degree and then received her certification as a CPA. Over the years, she worked with many different companies helping them to keep their companies financially healthy. These were not just companies that she worked with. Over the years she developed lasting friendships with many of her clients. Through the years Janet was also quick to share her accounting expertise with many different non profit organizations as well.

As her daughters grew up, Janet was ready and willing to make their home a place where her daughters' friends could gather. There they could enjoy good food and great times for fun. In later years, nothing delighted Janet more than sharing in the lives of her grandchildren. She was a big supporter and encourager through the many activities they were involved in.

In time, Janet and Ted became members of St. Joseph Parish. "We kept driving by it to get to Resurrection and we thought, "why not go here." Here too Janet was quick to offer her help, especially organizing the dinning room for our summer social dinners. With great efficiency she did the work almost effortlessly.

Janet's life came to an end far too quickly for her family and friends this past April 24th after suffering a stroke. We pray now that she will hear the words of Jesus welcoming her home: "well done, good and faithful servant. Come share the kingdom that has been prepared for you. As we give thanks for Janet's life we pray as well that God's peace and the memories of Janet bring comfort to Ted, Michelle and Nicole and all the members of their families.

REMEMBERING

Marilyn Mossberger

April 15, 1942–May 1, 2026

Marilynn had a smile that would light up a room and a heart that was always ready to welcome someone new. She was the daughter of Edward and Helen Loehr and she came on the scene with her identical twin sister, Carolyn. Her brothers, James and Marvin and her sisters Kathleen and Martha.



The Loehr family lived on a farm near the intersection of West St. Joseph Road and Number Three School Road. Growing up on a farm meant learning early the skills of milking cows, feeding chickens and gathering eggs, as well as planting and harvesting the many vegetables grown in the garden. It also meant learning how to cook, can vegetables and butchering hogs and processing all the meat. Marilyn got very proficient at all these tasks.

Marilyn attended St. Joseph Grade School in the "old" school that sat just east of our present rectory. Later she would attend and graduate from Mater Dei High School in 1960. By that time, the family had moved from the farm into the house on the near north side of Evansville near Bosse Field where her parents ran a local bar/restaurant.

Having a sister who looked just like her could be advantageous for both Marilyn and Carolyn. They could take tests for each other in school. After all, who could tell them apart. And having a look alike sister could prove interesting when they started dating. That did not deter Bob Mossberger, a young man from the St. Joe area who jumped into the fray. He was actually dating Carolyn and they were doing what most dating couples did—out driving and hitting some of the local food hot spots. One of the those places was the Dog N' Suds. There he spotted Marilyn, a sixteen year old teenage who was working as a car hop. Marilyn too noticed this young man who looked quite handsome in his Navy Seabee uniform. They would be married on October 12, 1961.

In time, Bob and Marilyn would welcome two children in their lives—Shelia and Bobby. She created a home for them first when they lived on Fischer Road and later when they moved to Sensmeier Road. That place, in particular, became a place for the grandchildren to enjoy. Marilyn taught her children all the things she had learned as a young girl. Among the wonderful things they enjoyed were the young girl that came out of her kitchen—chicken and dumplings, steak fries, vegetable and chicken noodle soups, home made bread and all manner of vegetables that were grown in her garden. As the grandchildren came along, there would be hot dogs, popsicles and wonderful root beer floats. And everyone was treated to their very special birthday cake.

In our parish, Marilyn was the epitome of hospitality, welcoming all, whether that was at Mass or gathering with the members of the Altar Society and helping with their numerous activities. Until her health prevented her, Marilyn was one of our faithful ministers of communion at the 5 pm Saturday evening Mass.

Marilyn had her challenges in life, particularly with her health. Chronic hearing problems often made it difficult to communicate. And through her life, Marilyn had many back surgeries and shoulder surgeries prompting her friends to claim that she had enough hardware in her body to start her own hardware store. Through it all, Marilyn never let her physical challenges get her down. Even when she was homebound, as she was for the last years of her life, she would

greet those who came by with a generous smile and a hearty, if not loud “hello.”

In the last months of her life, Marilyn’s health challenges became even greater, making her bed ridden. Her family made the commitment to her that they would care for her at home. Her husband Bob, children Bobby and Shelia and their families all pitched in to make this happen. They all knew Marilyn had a strong constitution and she continued to hang on to life even when it often seemed like she could not live another day. This past May 1, Marilyn was finally able to make her passing. Her whole family had been with her through it all, reminding her of the blessing she had been and to take comfort in the knowledge that God was ready to receive her into the kingdom that was prepared for her.

As we give thanks for the blessing that Marilyn was for her family and our parish, we pray that she may have eternal rest and that her memory will live long in the lives of her husband Bob, her children Shelia and Bobby and their families.



REMEMBERING

Jim Gries

April 12, 1948 - May 25, 2026

Every Sunday. Same time. Same pew. Jim was as faithful to his church as he was to his family, friends, and his lawn!

Jim came on the scene on April 12, 1948, the son of John and Luella (Schaus) Gries. In this family he would be surrounded by his sisters Betty, Ruth and Annette and his brothers Jerry, Ray, Danny, and

Vernie, with whom he shared a special bond.

Originally, the family lived on West Missouri Street but eventually settled into a home on the corner of Louisiana and Garvin Streets. They were a part of St. Joseph Parish in the city of Evansville and it was there that he graduated from grade school. Later, Jim would attend high school at Mater Dei where he graduated in 1966.

From an early age, Jim learned values of being part of a family, working hard and learning how to be financially thrifty. From his parents he saw how working for the parish was given an honored place. With his siblings, he helped his dad working at the tip board booth at the summer social and learned how to make this kind of work really pay off the parish.

Jim developed some great friendships with people in our parish since his dad had grown up in St. Wendel Parish and knew many of the people in the area. Of course, being a “Gries” who had connections with the Adler and Steckler families, meant that he was related to a great many of these people. He became particular friends with the family of Bobbie and Betty Maurer, so much so that Betty considered him her “13th” son.

Gradating in 1966 meant that Jim found himself being drafted into the army and being sent to the war in Viet Nam. Jim’s great desire in life was to become a truck driver and so it was that during his time in the army he drove a truck. Most of the time, driving a refrigerated truck, he hauled food from the southern part of Viet Nam to bases in the Da Nang area. On the return trip he would transport soldiers who had been killed to Saigon for their trip back home. As with many of those who served in war, these experiences would have a profound effect on Jim. What you thought and believed before you went off in service of your country and what you came to believe after coming home were very different for Jim and it

would influenced how he saw things.

When Jim returned he took up his preferred job—being a truck driver. He worked for various freight companies and hauled all manner of things locally and throughout the United States until his retirement.

In time, Jim would meet Connie Ennis. “It was a chance meeting,” as Connie recalled. “I worked at the Holiday Inn and stopped in the bar for a drink before I went home. Little did I know that Jim would, by chance stop by the Holiday Inn at the same time for a drink after a long day of truck driving. We it it off and soon were married on September 18, 1979.” Jim became a father-figure to Connie’s two sons, Terrance and Faim and together they would welcome their daughter Ashley.

They set up their household in the house that Jim owned on Cynthiana Road. Those who knew Jim, knew that he was very particular about caring for his lawn, kidding him about being a great “grass farmer.” Whatever the case, his lawn was meticulously cared for.

Through the years Jim was generous in sharing his time on many projects. While he had very definite ideas about what should and should not be done and how it should be done, even when his advice was not fully appreciated, he would show up and help.

Many years ago he chaired the committee in charge of our monthly lottery. When it was time to build new stands for our summer social, he took on that task as well. When it came to

(Continued on page 6)

BREAK MY HEART

On June 11, 2026, as part of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the bishops of the United States invited the Catholic community to join in consecrating the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. You can join in this effort with this prayer of consecration.

**Not that You need this invitation
Not the You wait for my permission
Still, this is my humble contrition
Please, break my heart, O God.**

**Not just some empty repetition
No, this is my sincere confession
That I need so much more compassion
Please, break my heart, O God
Please, break my heart**

**For the sick, for the poor
For the ones who need more
Tenderness and justice
Break my heart**

**For the lost, for the lame
For those suff’ring in pain
Help me see You in each face
Through a broken heart**

**Lord, life the veil
that clouds my vision
Loose ev’ry chain and inhibition
More than a prayer, it’s my decision
To break this heart, O God
With what breaks Your heart, O God
Please, break my heart
Jennifer Martin**



(Continued from page 5) **REMEMBERING JIM GRIES (cont.)**

the summer social he could be found working with the chicken frying group. Through the years there were always projects that the Men's Club undertook that he participated in. The same was true with his time working with the Knights of St. John. His time was spent cleaning their Nut Club booth each morning of the week long nut club fall festival. And there were numerous barbecue fundraisers that he supported as well.

Over the years, Jim used his truck driving skills for the benefit of the parish from hauling supplies to Florida where they could be shipped to our sister parish in Haiti. And for the last several years, he faithfully took our aluminum can trailer to the recycle plant.

Jim's generosity extended beyond our parish. Each year, for many years, he was part of the crew that hauled the signs for the Fantasy of Lights Christmas display to Garvin Park and then hauled them back to their storage facility. He also hauled blood supplies for the local red cross. Simply put, if you needed help and it was something he could do, he would do it. Now you might have to listen to his opinions about what you were doing, but, in the end, even if he didn't agree with you, he would still help you out.

Jim left of big mark on so many lives. From the soldiers in his army unit in Viet Nam, to his family and especially his brothers with whom he developed a close bond, to his fellow members in the Knights of St. John and Men's Club, to the many people he impacted through his truck driving years, to all of us in our parish. Each would be greeted by his familiar "Hey, what's going on."

In the last months of his life, Jim began dealing with several medical issues which prevented him from doing all the things he used to do. It was a difficult time for him because he could no longer take care of the the things that meant so much to him, especially caring for his lawn. It was also difficult because doctors could not give him a lot of clear cut answers. "They just send me for a bunch of tests and never can tell me what is wrong." Jim died early Monday morning, May 25th in the hospital. Perhaps as he was welcomed into the kingdom, he could have that conversation with God and finally get the answers he wanted. More likely, it was God who said, "well done, good and faithful servant. Come share the kingdom that has been prepared for you."

(Continued from page 1) **CELEBRATING OUR 250th ANNIVERSARY (cont.)**

war in Germany and Japan, would also be treated fairly.

What strikes me about this information is how easily people can come to believe things because they conform to what we like to believe about ourselves and our country. Reading any history about Abraham Lincoln and the people involved in the civil war or Franklin Roosevelt and all the people involved in World War II will reveal a history that will show people at their best and their very worst. That comes as no surprise to those who have looked honestly at their own lives. We are a mixture of good intentions and imperfect

actions. St. Paul said a long time ago, "the good that I want to do I do not do and the bad that I don't want to do, I so easily do."

This year, 2026, we are celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of our country. It is a good time to celebrate



the blessings we have as a country and it is equally a good time to reflect upon where we have missed the mark and failed to live up to the ideals to which we have committed ourselves.

It was an amazing thing for a group of people to come together in 1776 to form a government based upon laws where all were created equal and had the opportunity to create a life for themselves. That notion was so unheard up at the time. In a world a kings, emperors, sultans and the like, there was a belief that certain people were destined by God to rule while the vast majority of people were to follow.

The fact that you could get a group of people with widely different beliefs and economic interests, to actually come together and agree on a new form of government was pretty amazing.

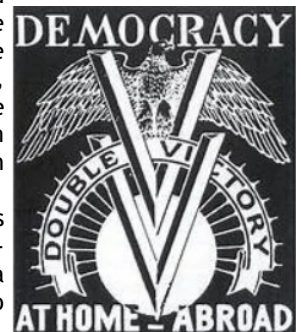


ing. But it was not perfect. This group of people was only men and mostly landowners. And they somehow, had to deal with this issue of slavery which they all knew was inconsistent with the ideal of "all men are created equal."

And so, for 250 years our country has tried to move forward. It has been an imperfect journey. President Lincoln was challenged to deal with the issue of slavery during the civil war. We remember him for signing the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 which freed those who were slaves. But like so many other decisions, it was not a perfect one. It only freed the slaves that lived in the states that were in rebellion. Not those in Missouri, Kentucky or Maryland. And while Lincoln may have thought that the those who were enslaved should be treated as equals, he would not have believed that they could be ever live in peace with the white population. He, like so many other people at the time, would have preferred that all the slaves leave our country and form their own nation in some country in Africa or even Haiti.

Seventy-eight years later, as World War II breaks out in our country, President Roosevelt is leading a country that is still trying to come to terms with the issue of slavery. Among the issues were dealing with Negroes who were drafted to serve in a military that was highly segregated. The prevailing attitudes of many white officers and men in the military at the time was that blacks were intellectually inferior and did not have what it takes to be a soldier. The jobs that were given to them were mostly menial jobs—serving as mess hands on ships, loading and unloading supplies, digging latrines, and setting up camps. But things changed, gradually as people began to interact. Black newspapers throughout the country began to argue for a double "V" victory over the enemies of democracy abroad and here in the United States. People's beliefs began to change, just the beliefs of the prisoners of war who came to our country and discovered that what they once believed was no longer true.

The issue of racism is long and complicated. We have taken steps forward and then gone backwards. Even today we are far from getting things completely right. That is part of our history. It's not a history that everyone wants to hear. As we get ready to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, there are many voices that are calling for an elimination of the parts of our history that are unpleasant. Just how do we honor our nation's past? How do we hold that things that have been



(Continued on page 7)



very good while also holding the things that have shown us at our very worst?

I think Pope Leo, in his recent encyclical *Magnifica Humanita*, can show us the way. Although this

encyclical is about safeguarding the human person in the age of artificial intelligence, Pope Leo also issued an apology for the churches' involvement with the slave trade.

To understand the significance of this, a little history is in order. Beginning in the eleventh and twelfth centuries as people from Europe began to travel the oceans and "discover" the rest of the world, they often did so because of the promise of material gains for their own countries. And they looked to satisfy the needs of the people who were paying for their voyages. Christopher Columbus, for example, traveled to the Americas in 1492 under the patronage of the king and queen of Spain.

Now into this mixture also came missionaries who, in answer to the call of Jesus in the gospel to "preach the good news to the ends of the earth," came to baptize the people and win them for Christ. Many good people and sincere people were among these missionaries. Unfortunately what was also present was a general belief that the people they encountered in these new lands were heathens who knew nothing about God and so would benefit from the gift of religion and European culture which was far superior to anything found in these new countries in Africa, Asia, and North and South America.

The church gets involved by publishing decrees, generally know as the "Doctrine of Discovery" issued by Popes which gave countries the right to subjugate and often enslave the peoples of these countries. If you

want to get a sense of what the churches relationship to countries and indigenous people in the new world was like at this time, a good place to start is to watch the movie, *The Mission* starring Jeremy Irons, and Robert DeNiro. It is the

story of the Jesuit missionary work among the Guarani Indians in central South America. Beyond this there is the dispute between Spain and Portugal over who can "claim" this territory and how they attempted to settle this dispute. The movie reflects the beauty and love of the native people and at the same time the harsh realities of power and control.

It has taken hundreds of years for the leader of the church to say publicly, we, the church, were wrong by what we did. On March 12, 2000, as part of the Jubilee celebration, Pope John Paul II, asked forgiveness for what Christians had done in encouraging and benefitting from slavery, but he did not explicitly talk about what

church leaders had done. Even this attempt was met by a lot of pushback from some who claimed that, while individuals may sin, the church never sins.

Now Pope Leo has acknowledged that past popes actively granted European sovereigns explicit authority to subjugate and enslave people, describing this history as a "wound in Christian memory, one from which we cannot consider ourselves detached. It is impossible not to feel deep sorrow when contemplating the immense suffering and humiliation endured by so many in stark contrast to their immeasurable dignity as persons infinitely loved by the Lord. For this, in the name of the Church, I sincerely ask for pardon."

While some may think that apologizing and acknowledging the sins of our past make us look weak, I think the opposite is true. Only people of strength can look at their lives with honesty and say "this is what I have done well, and this is where I have failed." Pope John Paul II reminded us that not only individuals sin but institutions sin as well. I think it is a powerful witness when the leader of our church can stand before the world and say "we have sinned, we have not always been what we claimed to be."

Pope Leo's witness can be great example for our country as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our the founding of our country. This can be a time when we can rightly celebrate the opportunities that have come to so many people. It is also a time to challenge ourselves with the conviction that all of us bear responsibility for making our country what it is, recalling the words of President Kennedy in his inaugural address, "Ask not what this country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country."

At the same time we need to look honestly at our history and acknowledge how often we have failed to live up to the ideals expressed in our Declaration of Independence, namely that we are a country where



THE NEW COLOSSUS

Not like the brazen giant
of Greek fame,
with conquering limbs astride
from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed,
sunset gates shall stand
a mighty woman with a torch,
whose flame is the
imprisoned lightning,
and her name Mother of Exiles.
From her beacon-hand
glows world-wide welcome;
her mild eyes command
the air-bridged harbor
that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands,
your storied pomp!"
cries she with silent lips.
"Give me your tired, your poor,
your huddled masses yearning
to breathe free,
the wretched refuse
of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless,
tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside
the golden door!"

Emma Lazarus

Poem written when the Statue of
Liberty was erected in 1886



Pope John Paul II
at Day of Repentance,
in March 2000

(Continued on page 8)

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING BIRTHRIGHT THROUGH OUR DIAPER BAG EXPRESS



Thank you for making it Christmas in June at Birthright as they received the baby items collected during our diaper bag express fundraiser. And thanks to those who made a financial contribution to Birthright as well. Thank you, especially, to Toni Askins for coordinating this effort for our parish.

(Continued from page 7) **CELEBRATING OUR 250th ANNIVERSARY (cont.)**

"that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." We have not always gotten it right. In fact, sometimes we have gotten it horribly wrong. Would that it would be true that we were a country that truly reflected the words we insist upon putting on our money: "in God we trust."

It takes courage to do this. Only truly strong people can do this. Acknowledging our failures as a country is not berating our country. Rather, it is an opportunity to again commit ourselves to become a country we claim to be. This simple dynamic of honestly looking at our lives to see where we have done good and where we have missed the mark, is not new to our catholic tradition. One of our great spiritual fathers, St. Ignatius of Loyola, encouraged his followers to daily examine their lives to see how their lives were lining up to the values that Jesus taught. The daily rituals of morning and evening prayer followed this same dynamic as well. Each morning, through simple prayers like the Morning Offering, we dedicated our entire day—including our prayers, works, joys, and sufferings—to God. The end of the day included an examination of our day, asking forgiveness for the times we missed the mark by reciting such prayers as the act of contrition.

The 250 anniversary of our country offers us a great opportunity to not only celebrate the blessings we have but also to do some soul searching as well. And out of this soul searching, to ask forgiveness for our failures. Doing these things is a great way to truly make our country great again.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN US ON THESE SPECIAL DAYS OF PRAYER

"Come away for awhile and pray." That was the invitation Jesus gave to his disciples many times. There are, of course, many ways we can do this. Here in our parish we have two special opportunities for people to spend some time in prayer at church. Each Monday, from 7 am to 7 pm we have Eucharistic Adoration. In addition, once every six weeks we have a 24 hour time for Eucharistic Adoration, from 6 am on Tuesday till 6 am on Wednesday. This 24 hour day of prayer is part of our effort throughout our diocese to be praying each day for vocations.

What better place can you visit than a church during these special times of prayer. It is a chance to unburden yourself of all the heartaches, fears, angers, anxieties that weigh you down and then give you a chance to just be able to listen to God speak to you.

Our goal is to have two people come for each hour of prayer. This is especially wise for those late night and early morning hours through the night when some people might feel a little anxious about being the only person in church. We are inviting the parish to consider coming to spend an hour in prayer for both our weekly day of prayer and our 24 hour day of prayer. Questions? Call Terry (812.963.3149) or Imogene (812.963.5221)



Ever wonder why Catholics....

.....kneel on one knee before entering the pew/seat? Dip their fingers in water when they enter Church? Pray to Saints? Have statues in Church or their homes? Come join us on Tuesday, September 22 at 6:30 pm. For an open house, introductory session on

RCIA is a process through which people who are not Catholic have an opportunity to learn more about the Catholic religion. If you have questions...think you may be interested... Join Us! If you know of someone who might be interested, let us know!

No commitment required to begin. For more information you can call Steve Jung (812-760-7861) or call/text Father Gene Schroeder (812-499-9074)



LITURGICAL MINISTERS JULY 19--August 10, 2025

ARE YOU WILLING TO SERVE We are always looking for new people to help serve at Mass by being a Minister of Communion or a Lector. Call/text us (812-499-9074) and we will provide all you need to serve our parish in this way.

DATE	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTORS
Saturday July 18, 2026 5 PM	Diane Woods Carolyn Hutchinson Donald Werner Brandon Werner	Sis Jarboe
Sunday July 19, 2026 8 AM	Jean Duncan Marcia Frey Brian and Ann Craney	Tom Blythe
Sunday July 19, 2026 10:30 AM	Angie Will Sally Kempf Cecelia Koch Kitty Deig	Jane Scheller
Saturday July 25, 2026 5 PM	Mary Kay Fehrenbacher Donna Niemeier Eric and Karen McDonald	Jim Hermann
Sunday July 26, 2026 8 AM	Terry Drone Lisa Cook Rodney and Paula Baehl Darlene Appler	Marcia Frey
Sunday July 26, 2026 10:30 AM	Paul Hillenbrand Amy Cody Jena Wessel Rachael Schnaus	Chad Martin
Saturday August 1, 2026 5 PM	Butch and Linda Feulner Eric Reffett, Toni Askins	Susie Schapker
Sunday August 2, 2026 8 AM	Kylie Frey Stephanie Frey Tom and Dolores Folz	Terry Drone
Sunday August 2, 2026 10:30 AM	Becky Doshier Shane Wessel Steve Jung Al Debes	Shane Wessel
Saturday August 8, 2026 5 PM	Peter and Jodi Fehrenbacher Mary Loehrlein, Diane Woods	Toni Askins
Sunday August 9, 2026 8 AM	Jalane Weber Michael Elpers Randy and Kathy Fehrenbacher	Chick Duncan
Sunday August 9, 2026 10:30 AM	Diane Bassemier Danielle Weledge Doris Taylor Debra Baumgart	Jane Scheller

MISSION OUTREACH



Be an island of mercy in
a sea of indifference.

Pope Leo

Not all of us can do great things,
but we can do small things with great
love. *Mother Teresa of Calcutta*



Each weekend we are
collecting food items for the St.
Vincent DePaul Food Pantry.
This past month, the St. Vincent
DePaul Food Pantry gave food to
over 2700 individuals.



**TURN YOUR GROCERY CART INTO
A SIMPLE ACT OF HEROISM**

HERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPACT THE LIFE OF A CHILD BY BECOMING A FOSTER CARE FAMILY

More than 1,000 children in Vanderburgh County experience abuse or neglect every year. This number continues to increase, and not all of these cases end in triumph. Right now there are over 1000 kids in Vanderburgh County in foster care but only 150 foster families.

There is a great need for **Foster Care Parents**. Become a trained foster parent through the Department of Child Services or the Villages, and then take children into your home until they are returned to their families or placed in an adoptive home. Foster parents have complete control over who they decide to take in and how many children they choose to care for at once.

There is also a need for **Respite Care Families**. These families undergo the same training and preparation as a full-time foster parent, but only take in children who have already been placed with a full-time foster family to allow those families a short break.

Foster Care



What to Know, Where to Go, What to Do!

JOIN US IN CHANGING LIVES IN HAITI ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

One of the foundations of our work with our brothers and sisters in Haiti is a "community based" student sponsorship program. For \$33/month (\$400 annually), a sponsor would be assigned a student from St. Jacques elementary (Ecole St. Pierre) or high school (College St. Pierre). This gift would cover the student's tuition, uniform and cost of supplies. All 700 students benefit from having dedicated teachers who were being paid consistently and the daily lunch program being provided. For many students, this is the one certain meal they will get each day!

We are now in the process of inviting people to renew their student sponsorships for the new year. This is a great time to begin sponsoring a student as well if you have not done that in the past

**CONTACT CHAD MARTIN
812.454.2785 TO LEARN ABOUT
SPONSORING A STUDENT IN HAITI**

SPECIAL MISSION APPEAL--JULY 11-12

Each year, through the Mission Office in our Diocese, each parish invites a member of a foreign mission to come and speak to the parish and to invite us to provide financial support for their work. This year, Marilyn Wassmer, the sister of Fr. Myron Effing will be here on the weekend of July 11-12 to speak on behalf of the Mary Mother of God Missions in Vladivostok.



The work of the Mary Mother of God Missions in Vladivostok has its origins in the work of Fr. Myron Effing, a son of our parish. So, how did a young man from our parish get interested in Russia? Here is how he tells the story.

I was born in 1941 before America got into World War II. My dad, Henry Effing, worked for a company named Servel, Inc. Servel made gas refrigerators. In those days, not all homes were

connected to the electric grid, but people still needed cold refrigerators to protect their foods. Those Servel refrigerators worked on bottled gas, not electricity, so they were in demand.

One day the US Department Defense asked Servel if they could make, instead of refrigerators, airplane wings, for the war. Airplane wings and gas refrigerators are somewhat alike: They are made from sheet metal, are full of pipes and valves, and run on liquid fuel. These wings would be for Russian airplanes made in Siberia for the war. So Servel agreed, and we began hearing a lot about Russia, the Lend Lease Program, and the War.

The wings were made in my hometown of Evansville, Indiana, shipped down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers on Lend Lease ships to the Gulf of Mexico, through the Panama Canal, across the Pacific to Vladivostok where they were transferred to the Trans-Siberian Railroad, and shipped to Siberia where they were united with the locally made fuselages. (When I first arrived in Vladivostok in 1991 there was still a Lend Lease ship in Vladivostok harbor— You could recognize it by its square wooden window frames rather than portholes.)

So I was always interested in Russia. When our family was given a world globe, my first question was "Where is Russia?" During my educational years I always subscribed to USSR magazine. When I needed to take a modern foreign language to receive my bachelor's degree, I couldn't bear trying to study French or Spanish. Luckily Yuri Gagarin orbited the Earth, and people in America rushed to learn Russian.

I attended the first Russian classes offered at my school, Evansville College. After my ordination as a priest, I taught Mathematics and Science in several schools and seminaries, and at the University of Guam.

When Fr Dan Maurer and I were looking for a place to begin our proposed new religious order, it was the time when the Soviet Union was dissolving, and we knew there would be a need for priests in Russia. So I made my first trip to Russia in 1991--of course to Asia, where we figured the need would be greatest. Vladivostok was a closed military city so I couldn't come here immediately. I had to return to America and get a special visa for Vladivostok, and I celebrated the first public mass here on November 11, 1991. The Soviet Union ended on December 31, 1991. Of course our work here wouldn't have been possible without our great benefactors!



JULY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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HAVE YOU SOLD YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS?  EARLY BIRD DRAWING--JUNE 30			1 7:30 am Mass	2 NO MASS	3 7:30 AM MASS 	4 Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 pm 5 pm Mass Food Pantry Collection Collection for Haiti
5 8 & 10:30 Mass Food Pantry Collection	6 7 am-6:30pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass	7 7:30 am Mass Prayer Day for Vocations 6 am Tuesday to 6 am Wednesday	8 7:30 am Mass	9 No Mass	10 7:30 am Mass Communion to the Homebound Senior Citizens Gathering at Noon Pizza Party Meeting Room	11 Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 pm 5 pm Mass Food Pantry Collection MISSION APPEAL
12 8 & 10:30 Mass Food Pantry Collection MISSION APPEAL	13 7 am-6:30pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass Knights of St. John Meeting 7 pm SOCIAL DUMPLING MAKING DAY	GOT YOUR CHICKEN DINNER TICKETS? \$15		16 NO MASS HAITI OUTREACH MEETING 6:30 PM	17 NO MASS Communion to the Homebound	18 Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 pm 5 pm Mass Food Pantry Collection
19 8 & 10:30 Mass Food Pantry Collection	20 7 am-6:30pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass Men's Club Meeting 7 pm	21 7:30 AM Mass  ARE YOU HELPING OUT WITH OUR SOCIAL CHICKEN DINNER ON JULY 26?	22 7:30 am Mass	23 No Mass 5 pm Set up cooking kettles for social Bag Cookies for chicken dinner	24 7:30 am Mass Communion to the Homebound SOCIAL DINNER KITCHEN PREPARATIONS 7 AM AND 12 NOON	25 SOCIAL DINNER SETUP PREPARATIONS CLEAN CHICKENS 1 PM 5 pm Mass Food Pantry Collection
26 8 & 10:30 Mass SUMMER SOCIAL CARRYOUT DINNER 10-1 PM GRAND RAFFLE DRAWING 3 PM	27 7 am-6:30pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass	28 7:30 AM Mass SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 11:30 — 1:30 MEET THE TEACHERS TOUR THE CLASSROOMS GAMES AND FOOD 	29 7:30 AM Mass	30 No Mass	31 7:30 AM Mass	1 Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 pm 5 pm Mass Food Pantry Collection Collection for Haiti

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Saturday—5 PM

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**HELP SPREAD
A LITTLE
CHICKEN JOY**

(Continued from page 1)

They won't want to miss out on the chance to enjoy our famous chicken dinner.

One thing that will really help to ensure the success of our chicken dinner is for folks to be willing to take a batch of dinner tickets and sell them.

Our chicken dinners are famous and oh so delicious. So why keep it all to ourselves! Looking for a way to share some of this "chicken joy?" Make someone's day and help our parish all at the same time by buying a chicken dinner for the neighbor, a co-worker, a friend who is having a rough time or a resident in the nursing home.

BACK THE BLUE and RED. Bring some dinners to one of our local police/sheriff stations or fire stations. It's a sure way to keep up their strength

Make someone's day and help our parish all at the same time by buying a chicken dinner for the neighbor, a co-worker, a friend who is having a rough time or a resident in the nursing home. **THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS. CALL/TEXT US (812-499-9074) AND LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN HELP!**



ST. JOE SENIOR CITIZENS

PIZZA PARTY--FRIDAY-JULY 10

12 NOON IN THE MEETING ROOM

ALL SENIORS CITIZENS FROM THE PARISH INVITED

2026 RUMMAGE SALE REPORT

Another Great Parish Effort

We had our 25th annual rummage sale this past June 5th & 6th. It sounds so simple to say but incredibly challenging to actually do. What a great spirit of cooperation we had. It is just amazing how much time and effort people put into this on the days preceding the sale itself—sorting and pricing an incredible amount of stuff. It takes a great deal of work from a whole host of folks to transform our gym, meeting room and cafeteria in our own version of WalMart. The end result was that our annual Rummage Sale grossed \$13,373.00. Over the years that we have been conducting our rummage sale, we have raised well over \$240,000 from things that people no longer needed! Amazing!

Special thanks to all our volunteers whose efforts made this event possible.

Thanks especially to Imogene Baehl who has been the coordinator of this event, to Al Debes, Cindy Schmitt and Kristan Gilles for helping us with all the recycling and to the host of



young high school students whose help throughout During the two days of our rummage sale, the members of our Altar Society also made and sold over 340 of their famous cinnamon kuchen! Thanks also to Jessica Reckelhoff for providing some great food and drinks during the sale.