



THE CARPENTER

ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

VANDEBURGH COUNTY EVANSVILLE, INDIANA ESTABLISHED IN 1841

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JUNE 2026



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER OF OUR PARISH

“How many people are there who are members of our parish?” That’s a good question. The answer to that question leads us to another question. “What does it mean to be a member of our parish?”

There is an old saying that goes like this: “I am a real Catholic. I get collection envelopes!” While there is some humor in this response, being a parishioner is much more than that. One way we have described ourselves as a parish is that “we are a community of joyful, active, faith-filled people who give thanks to God by generously sharing their individual gifts and talents to serve the needs of all.”



*Welcome
To our Church*

These are wonderful words but just how do we achieve such a vision in more practical terms? I think there are three fundamental actions that are central to being a member of our parish.

**Praying Together at Mass
Embracing Service as a Way of Life
Supporting the Parish Financially**

These are the three things that all of us who call ourselves members of our parish try to embrace in our lives and they are the things we call each other to do so as well.

COMING TO PRAY WITH US AT MASS

This idea has its roots in the ten commandments of the Old Testament: “Remember to keep holy the Sabbath.” Over the years, in our Catholic tradition, this has come to mean coming to Mass each Sunday. Now there are many good reasons for such a commitment. But it is equally true that fewer folks seem to be coming to pray with us at Mass. The reasons for this, I suspect, are as varied as there are people. One thing I know is that I miss seeing people at Mass. Even more than missing them, I know how important their presence is for me to continue to do the work I do as a priest. I can’t live without it.

So why is it important to come and pray together each week at Mass? For me, two things are important. First, we need good anchors in our life and second, we were made to live in community and not by ourselves. We need each other.

Let’s face it. There are all kinds of things happening now that can

(Continued on page 4)

SUMMER SOCIAL GRAND RAFFLE AND CHICKEN DINNER COMING JULY 26 HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP



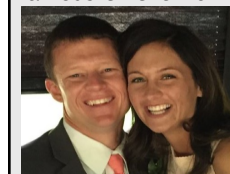
\$15,000 in prizes

TICKETS \$25

5 /--\$100

Our annual Summer Social Chicken Dinner/Grand Raffle is coming this July 26. Again this year we’re going to have our big grand raffle with \$15,000 in prizes to be given away. We are asking each family to at least buy/sell a packet of 10 raffle tickets. By the time you read this, you should have already received your packet of tickets which included a stamped, return envelope which you can use to return your tickets. Of course, if you can sell more than 10 tickets, all the better. Just let us know and we’ll get tickets to you.

The second thing we are focusing on for our social is to have our famous chicken dinner. As we did last year, we will be offering our chicken dinner on a carry out basis only. The price this year will be \$15/ dinner. To get us started, we will be sending each of our parish families five tickets for the dinner which they can buy or sell. Dinner tickets will also be available at the parish office for folks to buy. Go the extra mile and extend a little “St. Joe Hospitality” at the same time. Here are some ideas:



**Britt and Patrick
Fehrenbacher
812-480-970**



**Britt and Patrick
Fehrenbacher
812-480-970**

• Buy a dinner for the neighbor who can’t get out.
• Take orders from your family and friends - as many tickets as you need.
• Get with some friends and provide the money for dinners for the people at The Ozanam Family Shelter, House of Bread and Peace, or the United Caring Shelter. We’ll be glad to work with you to get these dinners delivered!

This year will be the last year that Chip, Megan, Britt and Patrick will be leading our social. We’re happy that Jordan & Jenna Phelps and Jordan & Kelly Wilkerson will be taking leering the ropes this year so that they can assume leadership for the social next year.



**TICKETS \$15/ DINNER
PURCHASED BY JULY 21**



**Kelly & Jordan
Wilkerson
812-589-9366**



**Jordan & Jenna
Phelps
812-204-0580**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
—Remembering Rudy Schrepfer.....	p. 2
—Salute to Graduates.....	p. 3
—Putting the Parish Budget Together.....	p. 6
—Carpenter Society Report.....	p. 8
—Opportunities to Serve ..	p. 9
—Rummage Sale News....	p. 12



REMEMBERING
Rudy Schrepfer
 September 18, 1961 - April 7, 2026
 Rudy was born on September 18, 1961 to Ruediger and Helen (Merkel) Schrepfer. His father, tragically, died before Rudy was born. Later, when his mother Helen, married Ray Kissel, he was welcomed into the Kissel family especially by his step-father, Ray Kissel.

Rudy attended St. Joseph School and later graduated from Reitz High School. Rudy was a man of passion, determination, and heart. Born with a competitive spirit, he spent much of his life dedicated to sports, cooking, and building a life he was proud of.

An athlete through and through, Rudy thrived in pool tournaments, found joy on the golf course, and played softball with skill and enthusiasm. Whether competing or simply enjoying the game, he brought energy and camaraderie to every match. His love for sports extended beyond playing—he was a devoted fan, especially when it came to IU basketball, never missing an opportunity to cheer for his team.

Beyond the world of sports, Rudy had a true talent for cooking. He found immense joy in preparing meals for his family, taking on the responsibility of cooking Thanksgiving feasts and Christmas dinners year after year. His barbecues were legendary, bringing together friends and loved ones over great food, laughter, and unforgettable memories.

Rudy was also a hardworking entrepreneur who took pride in starting his own cleaning business. His dedication and strong work ethic allowed him to build something of his own, a testament to his determination and drive.

Above all, Rudy's greatest source of joy came from the people he loved. He was especially fond of and deeply devoted to his adopted daughter, Nicole Whitehead, whom he cherished immensely. His kindness, warmth, and generous spirit left a lasting impact on all who knew him.

In the last years of his life, Rudy dealt with many health challenges, which necessitated him becoming a resident at Riverbend Health and Rehabilitation Center. Even there as a resident he brogh much joy to the staff and other residents. It was there, surrounded by his family, that Rudy died on April 7.

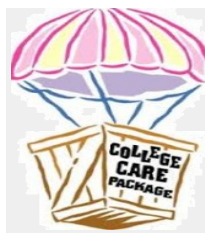
We give thanks for the gift that he was to his family and friends and the many ways that he fed them not just with food, but with the joy of his life. May he rest in peace.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS JUNE 20, 2026 -- JULY 12, 2026

DATE	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTORS
Saturday June 20, 2026 5 PM	Donald & Brandon Werner Mary Kay Fehrenbacher Toni Askins	Susie Schapker
Sunday June 21, 2026 8 AM	Jean Duncan Lisa Cook Rodney and Paula Baehl	Tom Blythe
Sunday June 21, 2026 10:30 AM	Sally Kempf Cecelia Koch Kitty Deig Paul Hillenbrand	Shane Wessel
Saturday June 27, 2026 5 PM	Eric and Karen McDonald Butch and Linda Feulner	Sis Jarboe
Sunday June 28, 2026 8 AM	Darlene Appler Kylie Frey Stephanie Frey Jalane Weber	Marcia Frey
Sunday June 28, 2026 10:30 AM	Jena Wessel Rachael Schnaus Becky Doshier Steve Jung	Chad Martin
Saturday July 4, 2026 5 PM	Sis & Katie Jarboe Diane Woods Donna Niemeier	Jim Hermann
Sunday July 5, 2026 8 AM	Tom and Dolores Folz Imogene Baehl Michael Elpers	Dave Schmitt
Sunday July 5, 2026 10:30 AM	Shane Wessel Debra Baumgart Al Debes Angie Will	Jane Scheller
Saturday July 11, 2026 5 PM	Peter and Jodi Fehrenbacher Mary Loehrlein Eric Reffett	Toni Askins
Sunday July 12, 2026 8 AM	Randy and Kathy Fehrenbacher Chick Duncan Marcia Frey	Josh Baehl
Sunday July 12, 2026 10:30 AM	Diane Bassemier Doris Taylor Danielle Weledge Debra Baumgart	Shane Wessel

VATICAN NEWS POPE VATICAN CHURCH WORLD

Keep up to date on the things that are happening with Pope Leo. Go to the website vaticannews.va
 You can also check out the official website of the Vatican (www.vatican.va). Both of these can also be accessed from our parish website (stjoeco.org). Click on the icon "What's Happening with Pope Leo" or go to the "Link" section and click on "Pope Leo at the Vatican."



THANKS....!I'm always grateful for your support with the college care packages! The students are extremely excited to receive prayers AND food from you! This Spring you helped fill over 64 packages and you donated \$115.00 to support mailing costs to students out of town.

Jessica Reckelhoff

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We welcome the new members of our faith community who were baptized and confirmed at our Holy Saturday Easter Mass at Night. They are pictured above following the ceremony. (front) Adam Burress, Madi Eagan, Erin Marx, Rachel Pedo, Zach Kendle (back) Tom Blythe (Catechist), Cathy Dale, Fr. Gene Schroeder, Erin Zirkelbach, Sr. Bridget Arnold OFM (catechist)

Saluting our 2026 Graduates

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

*Carson Arnold
Connor Atherton
Molly Baehl
Blake Bishop
Irelyn Brakie
Luke Fehrenbacher
Braden Grigsby
Cambrie Henderson
Claire Kassenbrock
David Link
Lyla Meredith
Lilah Mitchell
Mmekan Ntewo
Krish Patel
Jacob Raben
Beatrice Reckelhoff
Graham Schuble
Bella Warren*

MATER DEI HIGH SCHOOL

*Merritt Adler
David Altstadt
Josh Baehl
Zach Bishop
Ella Dalrymple
Piper Fehrenbacher
Brooklyn Helmer
Braydn Jones
Brady Kassenbrock
Cameron Lappe
Owen Messal
Sawyer Spaetti
Caden Thacker
Owen Traylor
Grant Voelker
Riley Waninger
Adalyn Wilkinson*

REITZ HIGH SCHOOL

Samantha Gibbs

NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

Katherine Roemke

NORTH POSEY

Mallory Luigs

COLLEGE GRADUATES

*Ava Elpers
UE EVSC Traces Program
Taylor Koester
USI Master of Science in
Nursing- Family Nurse
Practitioner
Zoe Gates
USI BS Nursing
Jill Happe
UE Physician's Assistant
Natalie Schneider
USI BS Nursing
Vanessa VanBibber
USI Dietician
Blake Baumgart
USI Finance
Ethan Lyke
Murray State
BS Business Agriculture
Evan Lyke
USI BS Business Agriculture
Dylan Pfaffman
USI BS in Business
Dawson Pfaffman
IU Human
Resources Management
Elias Ruedlinger
USI Civil Engineering
Jenny Daza
UK BS Food Nutrition*

Prayer For Our Graduates

People are unreasonable, illogical and self-centered: **LOVE THEM ANYWAY.**

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives: **DO GOOD ANYWAY.**

If you are successful, you win false and true enemies: **SUCCEED ANYWAY.**

The good you do will be forgotten tomorrow: **DO GOOD ANYWAY.**

What you spent years building may be destroyed overnight: **BUILD ANYWAY.**

People really need help but may attack you if you help them: **HELP PEOPLE ANYWAY.**

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth: **GIVE THE WORLD YOUR BEST ANYWAY**



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL HONORED AT INDIANA LITERACY CELEBRATION



On Wednesday, April 8th, our principal, Kelsey Meier, visited the Statehouse in Indianapolis and celebrated our school's recognition at the Indiana Literacy Celebration! This marks the third year of the event, and we are truly honored and humbled to have been invited all three years, while maintaining a 100% IREAD-3 pass rate. This accomplishment is a direct reflection of the dedication and hard work of our entire school community.

COME SEE WHAT ST. JOE SCHOOL HAS TO OFFER TO YOUR CHILD

WE ARE ACCEPTING ENROLLMENT APPLICATIONS FOR PRE-SCHOOL, PRE-K AND GRADES K- 8 CONTACT US 812-963-3335



A FATHER'S DAY PRAYER

Let us praise those fathers who have striven to balance the demands of work, marriage, and children with an honest awareness of both joy and sacrifice.



Let us praise those fathers who, lacking a good model for a father, have worked to become a good father.

Let us praise those fathers who by their own account were not always there for their children, but who continue to offer those children, now grown, their love and support.

Let us pray for those fathers who have been wounded by the neglect and hostility of their children.

Let us praise those fathers who, despite divorce, have remained in their children's lives.

Let us praise those fathers whose children are adopted, and whose love and support has offered healing.

Let us praise those fathers who, as stepfathers, freely choose the obligation of fatherhood and earned their step children's love and respect.

Let us praise those fathers who have lost a child to death, and continue to hold the child in their heart.

Let us praise those men who have no children, but cherish the next generation as if they were their own.

Let us praise those men who have "fathered" us in their role as mentors and guides.

Let us praise those men who are about to become fathers; may they openly delight in their children.



And let us praise those fathers who have died, but live on in our memory and whose love continues to nurture us.

Kirk Loadman

(Continued from page 1)

BEING A MEMBER OF OUR PARISH (cont.)

throw even the best person into a tizzy—challenges with children, stress related issues on the job, getting pulled from one issue to another and wondering whether you’ll have the strength and wherewithal to deal with the next thing. And if this is not enough, each day we face an onslaught of news stories about people shooting each other, rising food and gas

prices and other things that seem beyond our control. How do we stay centered in the midst of all this onslaught? We need a place that nourishes us and we need to be surrounded by folks who support us. We need people whose lives model a grounded way of being in the world. That is why coming to Mass each week is important. We gather with like-minded folks who share the same concerns we do and we come to know that we are not alone. We need one another. That may be hard for some to believe because we live in a world that puts individual needs and wants above all else. So we look at things like going to Mass and we ask—“what is in it for me? I don’t go to Mass because I don’t get anything out of it.” Growing up in our faith means moving from a “me” consciousness to a “we” consciousness.

When people talk to me about going to Mass or, more to the point, about not going to Mass, I invite them to think about what impact their presence at Mass might have on someone else. Many people rarely think about this. And if they do, they conclude that their presence means pretty much nothing to others. It’s hard for many of us to think that our presence really matters to others or has an impact upon others.

But we are communal people. We were meant to be together. We need each other if we are to grow in our faith. There is such a strong impulse in the human heart to seek out a person to journey with as a partner. That’s why people get married. God reveals himself to us primarily through the journey and bonding process that happens in marriage, in community, in friendships and in church communities. This is what we come to know and understand as we come together to pray at Mass.

For so many people we tend to see religion as being such an individual thing. It is about me being good so I can go to heaven. But being Catholic is really not a “me” thing, it is really a “we” thing. We are all in this together. We cannot go it alone. We need one another.

EMBRACING SERVICE TO OTHERS AS A WAY OF LIFE

If I am a member of the parish, it follows that I want to be part of the life of that community. At the heart of being Catholic is embracing service to others as a way of life. This means being willing to put my gifts at the service of others. I’ve seen countless examples of that when parents and their children come to work at various parish events. By their actions they show to their children that service to the parish holds an honored place in their lives.

Now that doesn’t mean we always like being around others or working with them.



each other, rising food and gas prices and other things that seem beyond our control. How do we stay centered in the midst of all this onslaught? We need a place that nourishes us and we need to be surrounded by folks who support us. We need people whose lives model a grounded way of being in the world. That is why coming to Mass each week is important. We gather with like-minded folks who share the same concerns we do and we come to know that we are not alone. We need one another. That may be hard for some to believe because we live in a world that puts individual needs and wants above all else. So we look at things like going to Mass and we ask—“what is in it for me? I don’t go to Mass because I don’t get anything out of it.” Growing up in our faith means moving from a “me” consciousness to a “we” consciousness.



Sometimes these interactions can be challenging to say the least. People can drive us nuts, make us pull out our hair and perhaps drive us to drink. But it is in the give and take of being with others that we learn things like forgiveness, compassion, tolerance, and even love. And we learn this important lesson: We are not the center of the world. The world does not revolve around me and the things that are important to me. Once again, growing up in our faith moves us from a “me” centered world to a “we” centered world. And oh how important it is for us to live this lesson in our lives.

Being a part of the life of the parish also gives us practical ways for us to “own” our parish. One of the great legacies of our parish is to see generation after generation take real ownership in the parish. The buildings we have on our parish campus and the ministries that have been central to our life as a parish, give witness to this sense of ownership. I have heard people say many times: “the folks who came before gave us these buildings and these ministries, and now it is up to us to take care of them so that we can pass them on to the next generation.”



Unless our life is lived for others, it is not worth living.
Mother Teresa

Being part of the life of the parish takes on many different forms: serving in one of liturgical roles at Mass, volunteering in one of the countless activities connected with our school, being part of a mowing crew, helping out at our summer social chicken dinner or fish fries, helping with the activities of our various parish groups.

Often times, embracing service as a way of life can lead us to being a part of various outreach efforts beyond our own parish. Working with our brothers and sisters in Haiti, working at the St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry, being part of the work of Habitat are just a few examples. The ways to engage in service are as varied and numerous as the people in our parish. All of these efforts echo the truth of the words of Mother Teresa “Unless our life is lived for others, it is not worth living.”

SUPPORTING THE PARISH FINANCIALLY

Being a member of our parish also means helping to own the financial responsibility we have of providing the money needed to do the work of our parish. Here again, there is a very practical element to this but it is likewise rooted in a sense of stewardship.

Embracing a life of stewardship, especially regarding our financial resources, can only happen if we are able to be intentional about money. Simply acknowledging the amount of money we have available in our lives is the first challenge we have if we want to be intentional about using our money.

While most people will readily want to do this, simply asking the question, “Where did all my money go?” reveals how difficult this is. I grew up in a culture where keeping track of money through such things as checking accounts was considered



(Continued on page 5)

the norm. Even then there were people who operated strictly on a cash basis. Now, transactions in cash have become more and more rare. I suspect, that one day soon, checking accounts will also be a thing of the past. Now, a growing number of apps for our phones and computers are replacing “paying for cash” or writing a check. With the simple click on a bar code, money can be changed hands in an instant. All these technological advances are not bad things. I’m sure, in its day, “writing a check” or even putting money in a bank, was considered wildly outlandish by those who dealt strictly in cash. But each succeeding technological advance, makes it easier and easier for money to slip through our hands leaving us wondering, “Just where did all my money go?”

We also live in a world of “too muchness.” Stopping in at our annual rummage sale shows how true this is. Every year in our school we have all sorts of jackets, sweatshirts, water bottles, books, and book bags that go unclaimed. The kids know it belongs to them but they can’t remember often what they have left behind. The same is true with dishes left over after a funeral luncheon. We do not miss these items, and if we did, we have the resources

to just buy more. It’s not that people are bad or somehow uncaring, it is just one of the effects of living in the world we do. How many times have you heard people say, or maybe have even said it yourself, “I need to down size!”

It’s not that people are deliberately trying to be wasteful or somehow don’t care, it’s just that we easily get caught up in a world where we have such easy access to so many things. More and more, it takes a great deal of effort to be very intentional about how, where and why we use our money.

What we do with our money says a great deal about what we truly value and believe in. When we start out in life, we tend to think that “my” money is mine. We worked for it. We earned it and we are the ones who should have the say in how it is spent. Growing in our faith challenges us to see that what I have, including my financial resources, is really a gift given to me by God. It challenges us even more to ask ourselves “how are we supposed to use this gift?”

Our faith tradition, with deep roots in the Bible, calls us to give of our money as an expression of our faith. We hear Jesus tell us “give, and it will be given to you; good measure, crushed down, full and running over, they will give to you. For in the same measure as you give, it will be given to you again.” (Luke 6:8).

Once again, we are reminded that growing in faith is really a movement from a “me” centered world to a “we” centered world. And that is certainly true with money. Money is very close to us. It reflects, in a very real and

concrete way, what we really value in life. We tend to live in a financial world that sees money as a means of paying for the things we want. And we are the sole person who should decide how these transactions happen.

Seeing our money as a part of our stewardship response takes a great deal of courage. It means believing that we live in a place of abundance. These can be things that are hard to hear. We live in a world full of fear. And that fear grows in a world where there is much chatter about inflation and rising prices. In the face of this, we often shrink back into fear and the belief that we have to rely on our own resources. And living in this kind of energy makes it hard for us to embrace the notion that being part of the parish means supporting the parish financially.

Every generation of parishioners, since the beginning of our parish in 1841 faced challenges like this. Now it is equally true that in each generation, most people really wanted to do their part. What has sustained our parish financially through each generation is that the faith of the few has inspired and encouraged the rest of us to a greater faith commitment.

An ideal that we try to embrace is to tithe. This is an Old Testament term that meant giving the first 10% back to God. The ideal we try to live by is sharing our money in the following way: 5% to our parish, 1% to the CMA and 4% to other charities.

Our expectation, with regards to money, is that people will contribute in our weekly collection. It also means supporting the financial efforts of our parish by buying/selling a packet of raffle tickets for our summer social. In addition, our expectation is that people will join in doing their part to share in the responsibility we have as a parish to provide the money needed to do the work of the Diocese of Evansville by making a pledge to our annual Catholic Ministries Appeal (CPC).

So what does it mean to be a member of our parish? Praying with us at Mass, embracing service as a way of life and supporting our parish financially. These are the things all of us who claim membership in our parish, try to embrace. We try to hold each other accountable to them. And we challenge those who want to become members of our parish to embrace them in their lives.

So now might be a very good time to for each of us to ask how well we are doing in our commitment as members of the parish. In doing so, we need to remember that we are not perfect people

(Continued on page 12)



LOVING through LOSS

Loving Through Loss: A Retreat for Couples (and Individuals) will be held on June 27, 2026 at St. John’s Parish (Daylight) from 8:30 am-4 pm.

Loss changes us, and it can also deeply impact our marriages. Whether your journey has included miscarriage, stillbirth, infant loss, or the loss of a child at any age, you are not alone.

Join us for a day of reflection, healing, and hope through this Loving Through Loss Couples Workshop, offered in partnership with Red Bird Ministries.

Cost: \$90 per couple | \$45 per individual | For those in need - we have spots available free of charge. (Includes retreat materials, light breakfast, lunch, and snacks). To register scan the code or visit www.osvhub.com/evdio/forms/loving-through-loss.






A LOOK AT HOW WE PUT THE PARISH BUDGET TOGETHER

Fr. Gene Schroeder
PASTOR

A LOOK at the BUDGET

It is time to put together our parish budget for the next year. Our fiscal year, which parallels our school year, runs from July 1 to June 30. Budgets can be rather intimidating especially when you are dealing with a budget that is in excess of two million dollars. It's a far cry from the time when our the five families gathered together in 1841 to begin our parish. Talking about different accounts and projected income and expense can lead many people's eyes to gloss over. No doubt it has led to the old saying, "figures lie and liars figure."

Where do we begin? We start with some assumptions that we believe reflect the wishes of most of the people in our parish.

- We want our church to continue to be here as a place to come together to pray at Mass and to celebrate the special events in our lives.
- We want to continue to operate our grade school as a

place to help train our children in the ways of faith.

- We want to continue to support Mater Dei High School as we have done since we have had Catholic High Schools in Evansville.
- We want to care for all the buildings and property that make up our parish campus.
- We want to continue to offer Religious Education and Sacramental preparation programs for the children and adults of our parish.
- We want to continue to be a part of the Catholic Diocese of Evansville and the Roman Catholic Church.

We recognize that not all people in the parish are fully supportive of each of these assumptions. Some are more supportive of some and less supportive of others. But that was probably no different than what happened with the five families who founded the parish in 1841 when they had to deal with such questions as, "Should we build a church and how big should it be?" But they pulled together in supporting the common effort. And so it is with us today.



Now, once you agree on these assumptions, there are costs associated with them. For example, if we say we want our church to continue to be a place where we can gather to pray, then we will have to pay for things like utilities and general maintenance as well as insurance. And we want to have people to lead us in prayer, and that is going to involve hiring people and paying salaries and related insurance costs. Once we say we want to operate a school, that means we are going to have to have people to do that. Hiring people means paying salaries, social security, pensions and medical insurance.

If we say we want to have a school, that means we will have to pay the costs to maintain buildings, paying for heating and cooling buildings, and paying for property insurance.

If we say we want to support our local Catholic High School, Mater Dei, then we will be obliged to pay our share of the costs for the teachers and school building maintenance.

Likewise, we are part of the Diocese of Evansville and the Universal Roman Catholic Church. We are not a non denominational congregation. We are a part of something bigger. That means that we commit ourselves to providing our share of the money needed to operate both of these institutions. That happens through our annual Catholic Ministries Appeal Campaign. While our expectation is that all the money needed for this will be raised through this annual campaign, if it doesn't then it falls back to our parish to make up the difference using money from our parish. We were very blessed in the last Catholic Ministries Appeal. We not only pledged the amount needed to pay for our share of the costs for operating our diocese, but actually exceeded that amount. If everyone is faithful to meeting their pledges, we will be in very good shape with this particular item.

It's hard to imagine that just agreeing with the assumptions we outlined above can lead to a budget of over 2 million dollars. One of the maxims that we like to follow when putting together a budget is to budget income on the "low" side and expenses on the "high" side with the hopes that we will receive more money than we anticipated in income and we will spend less money than we anticipated.

Here's another simple way to look at our budget. Let say for the year we thought we would need to raise \$1 to pay for all the things we want to do in the parish. And, let say that at the end

PROPOSED PARISH BUDGET (Summary) July 1, 2026—June 30, 2026		
ITEM	CURRENT BUDGET 2025-2026	PROPOSED BUDGET 2026-2027
INCOME		
Stewardship Offerings	\$798,000.00	\$798,000.00
Other Parish Income	\$131,300.00	\$127,300.00
Religious Education Income	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
School Income	\$1,198,074.00	\$1,426,550.00
TOTAL PARISH INCOME	\$2,120,974.00	\$2,353,450.00
EXPENSES		
Parish Salaries and Benefits	\$293,900.00	\$304,258.00
Church and Worship	\$14,000.00	\$16,500.00
Parish Office	\$81,900.00	\$86,156.00
Parish Buildings and Grounds	\$56,700.00	\$61,400.00
Mater Dei Expense	\$101,503.00	\$101,000.00
Total Grade School Expenses	\$1,511,271.00	\$1,711,736.00
Religious Education	\$69,700.00	\$72,400.00
TOTAL PARISH EXPENSES	\$2,120,974.00	\$2,353,450.00

The above represents a summarized version of our parish budget. If you would like to see a more detailed version of the budget, contact the parish office and we will make a copy available for you.

A CLOSER LOOK AT SCHOOL INCOME		
ITEM	2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR	2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR
TUITION		\$63,440.00
TUITION VOUCHER INCOME	\$1,103,500.00	\$842,884.00
TUITION SGO GRANTS	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
GENERAL FEES	\$80,000.00	\$76,000.00
TECHNOLOGY FEES	\$28,000.00	\$20,000.00
PTO CONTRIBUTIONS (BOOK ADOPTION FEES)	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
GRANTS	\$24,000.00	\$35,800.00
OTHER ORDINARY FEES	\$21,750.00	\$25,006.00
PRE-SCHOOL	\$109,300.00	\$74,500.00
AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
PARISH SUBSIDY	\$285,186.00	\$313,641.00
TOTAL BUDGETED INCOME	\$1,711,736.00	\$1,503,271.00

A CLOSER LOOK AT SCHOOL EXPENSES		
ITEM	2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR	2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR
TEACHERS SALARIES	\$739,361.00	\$648,103.00
SUPPORT STAFF SALARIES	\$312,075.00	\$211,408.00
TEACHERS/STAFF BENEFITS	\$334,200.00	\$290,700.00
CLASSROOM & CURRICULUM	\$90,300.00	\$86,750.00
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	\$135,600.00	\$179,100.00
PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM	\$84,000.00	\$79,500.00
CHILD CARE	\$16,200.00	\$15,700.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,711,736.00	1,510,271.00

of the year, instead of needing a \$1, we actually only spent \$.98. Instead of raising \$1, we actually raised \$.99. At the end of the year, after paying all our expenses, we had one penny left over. That is pretty much how things have gone these past twenty-six years. Most years, we had a penny left over. A few years we spent a penny more than we raise, and a few years we had two cents left over at the end of the year. Now if you want to translate these simple numbers into the actual dollars it will take to run our parish next year, just figure that each penny of income or expense is equivalent to \$23,534.00.

Here is another way to understand our budget. The majority of our parish expenses are related to paying our employees. Next year, our budget anticipates thirty-four full and part time people on our parish payroll. Paying their salaries will cost \$1,366,836.00. There are additional employee costs (social security, pension, health insurance). We have budgeted \$435,960 for these costs. These two items alone account for 60% of our entire budget. Another big chunk of money, \$109,000 will go toward paying utility costs (gas, electric, water, septic system maintenance). We have budgeted another \$59,300.00 to take care of building maintenance. Additionally we anticipated spending \$48,600 on property and liability insurance. Then there are the additional costs for operating the school (\$90,300.00), the parish office (\$86,156.00), our Religious Education Program (\$13,000.00) and costs associated with praying together at Mass (\$16,500.00).

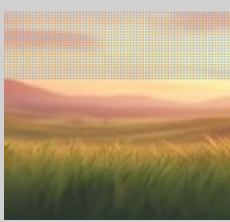
Anyway you look at, a budget of over two million dollars can be a little hard for most of to wrap our heads around. To give you another perspective, the amount of money we have budgeted for next year is almost 2000 times greater than the amount of money spent in our parish in 1886, (\$1,223.00) one hundred and forty years ago. It is over 1200 times greater than the money we spent in 1933, (\$1,959.00) ninety-three years ago. It is times 32 times greater than the money we spent in our parish in 1968, (\$73,445.00) fifty-eight years ago, and it over two and a half times more than we spent in 2000, (\$792,395) twenty-six years ago.

One of the great things we have going for us is that we have some wonderful parish staff members who work very hard making sure that the money we receive in the parish is used wisely. While our parish and school budget next year is over two million dollars, it represents an overall increase of only \$232,476.00 which is a one percent increase. Even with this small increase we have been able to increase the number of resource teachers in our school to meeting the growing needs of our students. And we are also able to provide money to continue the ongoing maintenance of parish campus, including replacing some of the original electric panels in the school and converting the school computer lab into a regular classroom. Unseen in this are also the numerous other maintenance issues that are being addressed throughout our parish campus.

Another big reason we are able to keep our overall budget costs low is that we have some amazing folks in our parish who have, time and time again, stepped forward to offer their talents and time for the benefit of the parish. These “in-kind” contributions are incredibly important for the life of the parish and we are blessed by the fact that they are offered so often and so willingly.

The other great thing we have going for us in our parish is that there have always been very generous people in our parish who have led the way in contributing their money so that our parish life could continue year after year. Their willingness to share their financial resources is a great example for all of us to do our part. It is their example that gives us the courage to put forward another parish budget and do the hard work of implementing it.





LOVE and LOYALTY

Women's Book Study Coming Wednesdays June 10-July 22

Join us as we explore the book, *Love and Loyalty: Heart Lessons From the Book of Ruth*. We will come to know the love and loyalty of Ruth and the other beloved biblical figures. They will show us that by seeking, trusting, and following God, we come to know we are held in God's hands. Our hearts long for this place where we are whole, our burdens are lightened, and our souls find supernatural peace. In the words of St. Augustine, "our hearts are restless until they rest in you, O Lord."

We will meet for 7 consecutive Wednesdays, starting on Wednesday, June 10th from 8:30 -10 am and concluding on Wednesday, July 22nd. Contact Jessica Recklehoff (912-598-1151) or Rachael Schanus (812-499-8248) to reserve a copy of the book (\$20)

THE CARPENTER SOCIETY REPORT FOR 2025



In takes a great deal of money to take care of the ordinary expenses of operating a parish and school. But there are always those extraordinary items and emergency items that show up all the time that need to be taken care of. While there have been attempts to set aside money from our ordinary income to take care of these extraordinary and emergency needs, these efforts have rarely been very successful. Instead, when emergency needs came up, it seemed that the “fallback plan” was to have a special fundraiser.

It happened some years ago when we needed to purchase a new riding lawn mower. To meet this need we started having a Lenten fish fry to raise the money needed. When there were bigger emergencies, like replacing roofs or put a new ceiling in the school cafeteria, we conducted capital campaigns to raise the money needed. We have conducted five successful capital campaigns over the last thirty years, and they all have been successful due, in no small part, to the generosity of our parishioners.

Some projects are much easier to get a financial “buy-in” from parishioners. When the roof was torn off our church three years ago, for example, people were very eager to give their support. Other projects, even while very important, often don’t have a lot of attraction to them—things like repairing a church steeple, or installing a waste water treatment plant, or doing infrastructure repairs. And then there is always the issue that not everyone in the parish will be on board with every project.

In the late 1990’s we began to envision a different way not only of providing for the long term financial needs of the parish, but also a different way of handling the “emergency needs” that come up in the course of the life of the parish.

GIFTS TO THE CARPENTER SOCIETY CAN BE MADE IN A NUMBER OF WAYS

- Naming the Parish in your will.
- Naming the Parish as a full or partial beneficiary of a life insurance policy.
- Naming the Parish as a beneficiary of a charitable remainder trust of the donor’s life estate.
- Donating any amount to one of the our parish endowment. Individual Endowments can be established with an initial donation of \$5,000.

Out of these efforts, the “Carpenter Society” was established. The Carpenter Society invited people to assure the future of our parish and its facilities by donating to the endowment funds of the parish or by establishing an endowment. The first parish endowment for the general needs of our parish was established. It had a value of \$5,711.

The whole idea behind establishing endowment was to invest the money and then the money earned from these investments would be available for use to the parish year after year. With just one small endowment, there was very little money received in interest. For the first few years the money that was made off of these endowments was reinvested back into the individual endowments.

Little by little, the whole idea of ensuring the future of

the parish through financial gifts to endowments began to take hold. It started with people giving money in honor of a loved one at the time of their death. Sometimes it was a donation given to honor someone’s birthday or wedding anniversary. Sometimes families decided to honor their loved one by establishing an endowment in their name. This past year of 2025, \$18, 413.00 was contributed in this way.

GROWTH OF PARISH ENDOWMENTS

1995—\$ 5,711	2011—\$ 323,611 +15%
1996—\$ 6,441 +13%	2012—\$ 380,475 +18%
1997—\$ 7,238 +12%	2013—\$ 460,447 +21%
1998—\$ 8,268 +14%	2014—\$ 517,860 +12%
1999—\$ 21,533 +160%	2015—\$ 501,863 -3%
2000—\$ 27,910 +30%	2016—\$ 512,396 +2%
2001—\$ 35,636 +28%	2017—\$ 707,518 +38%
2002—\$ 36,620 +3%	2018—\$ 678,216 -4%
2003—\$ 48,982 +34%	2019—\$ 840,754 +24%
2004—\$ 60,677 +24%	2020—\$ 1,133,640 +35%
2005—\$ 80,198 +32%	2021—\$ 1,428,336 +26%
2006—\$ 105,459 +31%	2022—\$ 1,300,676 -9%
2007—\$ 183,991 +74%	2023—\$ 1,443,695 +11%
2008—\$ 149,816 -19%	2024—\$ 1,666,996 +15%
2009—\$ 224,122 +50%	2025—\$ 1,897,058 +14%
2010—\$ 280,726 +25%	

In time the number of endowments grew from that one endowment to thirty-three endowments.. And the value of the endowments grew as well. Each year these various endowments generate income which can be used to fund different programs in the parish.

Here are some of the ways this money is being used. The Oliver Wallace School Library Endowment provided money to purchase books for our school library. The Mother Theresa Endowment for the Needy provided money to help families who live in our parish to pay for rent, utilities and other needs. The Teresa Baehl Endowment provided money to take our young children on vocation awareness trips to St. Meinrad and the Sisters of St. Benedict in Ferdinand.

Here’s how another endowment helps our parish. The family members of Fr. Fred Niehaus, who was pastor of our parish from 1935-1950, set up an endowment in his name to benefit St. Francis Xavier Parish in Vincennes, Fr. Niehaus’s home parish, as well as St. Joseph and All Saints (St. Anthony) in Evansville where Fr. Niehaus served as Pastor. Each year, our share of the money is used to pay for various maintenance and repair projects in the parish.

We now have thirty-three different endowments under the umbrella of the Carpenter Society. Seven of these endowments support the general needs of the parish, eight endowments support the needs of the school, four endowments support our work in Haiti, four endowments support our parish cemetery, three endowments support the liturgy needs of our parish, three endowments support the maintenance needs of our parish campus, three endowments support the work of our religious education programs, and one endowment provides for the needy in our parish area.

As of December 31, 2025 the assets held in trust for our thirty-three endowments had a value of \$1,897,058.00. This past year, a distribution of \$74,818.78 was made available to our parish for our endowments.

If you would like more information about establishing an endowment or contributing to an endowment, contact Fr. Gene Schroeder (gshroeder@evdio.org) or at our parish office (812-963-3273 or call/text 812-499-9074.

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*



GET ON BOARD THE DIAPER BAG EXPRESS

Our annual effort to support Birthright continues through Father's Day. Get on board and help unwed mothers and fathers by bringing powder, lotion, ointment, bottles, wipes, etc. for newborn babies. Packages of diapers can also be donated. You can also make a cash donation to "Birthright." Drop your donations off at church and/or put your contribution in an envelope marked "Birthright" and put it in the collection. If you have questions please contact Toni Askins at (812-457-3214).



SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS MONTH: PETER'S PENCE

Pope Leo reminds us that those who are baptized create one family of believers who are never alone. The Peter's Pence Collection unites us in solidarity to the Holy See and His works of charity to those in need. Your generosity allows the Pope to respond to our suffering brothers and sisters with promptness, love, and compassion, so God's people will not feel alone in their time of misfortune.

BE A SIGN OF MERCY



Today, the Peter's Pence Collection supports the Pope's philanthropy by giving the Holy Father the means to provide emergency assistance to those in need because of natural disaster, war, oppression, and disease.

HAITI MISSION UPDATES

With the generous support that has come from our Caribbean Night Fund Raiser we have been able to send funds to Father Dubois to start the church renovations which the most important part was getting



a new roof in order to protect this historic church. Over the past month



local Haitian craftsmen have been working hard and the new roof is looking great. There is still plenty of work to do, but the church renovation is off to great start.



Thanks to all of our generous benefactors, we have also been able to raise the \$70,000 we need to provide school

lunches for the students in our grade school and high school. That will be enough to provide over 85,000 meals to the nearly 600 students in both schools.



Congratulations to these young girls and boys who received their First Holy Communion this past April 26: Sam Back, Ella Carlisle, Rhett Gambrel, Anthony Greubel, Ansley Hendon, Riley Hertel, Hensley Jarboe, Asher Kares, Oakley Kendle, Andrew McCauley, Bryce Mehringer, Jack Mochau, Grayson Muensterman, Caroline Owens, Payne Schiff, Vivi Spaetti, Brinley TenBarge, Ella Weber, Abigail Williams, Ike Williams

JUNE 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>GET ON BOARD THE DIAPER BAG EXPRESS</p> <p>HELP SUPPORT BIRTHRIGHT COLLECTING ITEMS THROUGH FATHER'S DAY</p>						<p>\$15,000 in prizes 1st Prize \$10,000 2nd Prize \$2,500 3rd -- 6th Prizes \$500 Each</p> <p>Preliminary Drawing June 30 \$500</p>
<p>31 8 & 10:30 am Masses Haiti and Food Pantry Collection BRING YOUR RUMMAGE SALE ITEMS TODAY TO THE GYM</p>	<p>1 5:00 am Boot Camp 7 am-6:30 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass</p>	<p>2 7:30 am Mass</p>	<p>3 5:00 am Boot Camp 7:30 MASS Youth Trip to Holiday World 7 am - 7 pm Last Day to bring items for the Rummage Sale</p>	<p>4 NO MASS Making Kuchens Thursday at Noon</p>	<p>5 5:00 am Boot Camp 7:30 am Mass Making Kuchens Friday 9 am</p>	<p>6 Haiti & Food Pantry Collection 5 pm Mass</p>
<p>RUMMAGE SALE PREPARATIONS 9 AM TO 7 PM MONDAY-FRIDAY BRING YOUR ITEMS FOR THE RUMMAGE SALE EACH DAY</p>						 <p>RUMMAGE SALE JUNE 5 3 - 7 PM JUNE 6 7 AM - NOON</p>
<p>7 8 & 10:30 am Mass Food Pantry Collection</p>	<p>8 5:00 am Boot Camp 7 am-6:30 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass Knights of St. John 7 pm</p>	<p>9 7:30 am Mass</p>	<p>10 5:00 am Boot Camp 7:30 AM Mass</p>	<p>11 NO MASS 6:30 PM Haiti Ministry Meeting</p>	<p>12 5:00 am Boot Camp 7:30 am MASS Senior Citizens Gathering 1 pm</p>	<p>13 Food Pantry Collection Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 pm Mass 5 pm</p>
<p>14 8 & 10:30 am Mass Happy Father's Day </p>	<p>15 5:00 am Boot Camp 7 am-6:30 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass Men's Club Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>16 7:30 AM MASS</p>	<p>17 5:00 am Boot Camp 7:30 AM MASS</p>	<p>18 NO MASS</p>	<p>19 5:00 am Boot Camp 7:30 am MASS</p>	<p>20 Food Pantry Collection Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 pm Mass 5 pm</p>
<p>GOT YOUR CHICKEN DINNER \$15 TICKETS!</p>						
<p>21 8 & 10:30 am Mass Food Pantry Collection Peter's Pence Collection</p>	<p>22 5:00 am Boot Camp 7 am-6:30 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass</p>	<p>23 7:30 AM MASS</p>	<p>24 5:00 am Boot Camp 7:30 am Mass</p>	<p>25 NO MASS</p>	<p>26 5:00 am Boot Camp 7:30 am Mass</p>	<p>27 Food Pantry Collection Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 pm Mass 5 pm</p>
<p>COME SEE WHAT ST. JOE SCHOOL HAS TO OFFER TO YOUR CHILD WE ARE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR PRE-SCHOOL, PRE-K AND GRADES K- 8 CONTACT US 812-963-3335</p> 						
<p>28 8 & 10:30 am Mass Food Pantry Collection</p>	<p>29 5:00 am Boot Camp 7 am-6:30pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass Social Raffle Early Bird Drawing</p>	<p>30 7:30 AM MASS</p>	<p>1 7:30 am Mass</p>	<p>2 NO MASS</p>	<p>3 7:30 AM Mass</p>	<p>4 Food Pantry Collection Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 pm Mass 5 pm</p>
<p>GET YOUR SUMMER SOCIAL RAFFLE TICKETS \$25/TICKET 5/\$100</p>						
 						

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Fr. Gene Schroeder—Pastor
email gschroeder@evdio.org

Ms. Kristan Gilles—Director of Liturgy/ Music
email kgilles@evdio.org

Mrs. Kelsey Meier—Principal
email kmeier@evdio.org

Mrs. Julie Kempf—Secretary
email jkempf@evdio.org

Mrs. Jessica Reckelhoff
email jreckelhoff@evdio.org

Coordinator of Religious Education

**WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 8 am and 10:30 am**

(Continued from page 5)

BEING A MEMBER OF OUR PARISH (cont.)

and we are not a perfect parish. We don't always live up to the ideals we set before us. Sometimes our efforts are far from the ideal. Sometimes we get discouraged and wonder if any of our efforts matter. And sometimes what we do or don't do leaves folks wondering if they want to be part of our church.

What we are, in the end, is imperfect people who have fallen in love with a perfect God. Each day we try our best to imitate the one we have fallen in love with. Even when we don't do things completely or perfectly, we make the effort. And when we make the effort, we become better people. And God takes the efforts we put forth and does great things with them, greater than we can ask or even imagine.

SALUTING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR YOUTH



Congratulations to these St. Joe Seniors at Mater Dei (l to r) Josh Baehl, Grant Voelker, Addy Wilkinson, Piper Fehrenbacher, Brayden Jones who were among the 20 seniors honored for their academic achievement during their four years of high school. Each of them completed their four years with a perfect 4.0 grade average.

Don't miss our incredible RUMMAGE SALE

**Friday, June 5
3-7 pm**

Friday night shoppers get the first chance at all the bargains. (Shoppers pay **DOUBLE PRICE** except for furniture)

**Saturday, June 6
7am - 12 Noon**

Bag Sale Begins at 10 am

HAVE ITEMS TO DONATE?

Bring items to the gym

9am - 7 pm Monday—Wednesday—June 1, 2 & 3
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3 IS THE LAST DAY TO BRING ITEMS FOR THE SALE

CAN YOU HELP?

Every day 9 am—7pm the week of the sale (June 1-4) (COME FOR A DAY OR AN HOUR) and on sale days, June 5-6. At 11 am on Saturday after the sale—men and women, young and old are needed to help box and load what is left over.

We will have kuchen for sale during the Rummage Sale. Come and help make them Thursday at noon Friday at 9 am

