



THE CARPENTER

ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

VANDEBURGH COUNTY EVANSVILLE, INDIANA ESTABLISHED IN 1841

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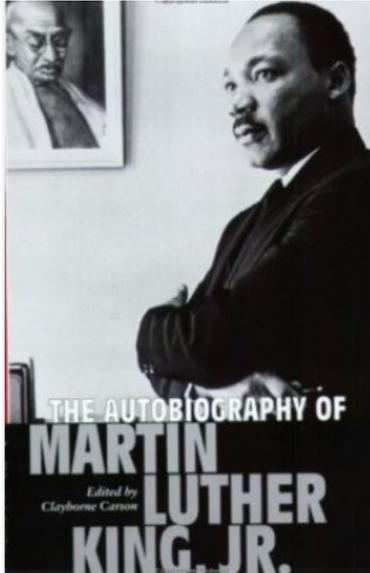
MARCH 2026



BEING COURAGEOUS

Fr. Gene Schroeder
PASTOR

In the Forest Dwelling Program that I have been a part of we are being asked to do a life review. It is a chance to ask questions like “how did I get to be the way I” and “what are the people and events that have shaped me.” I’ve also been reading the auto biography of Martin Luther King Jr. As I look back upon my life, I wonder if I would have had the courage that he had in his life. At 26 years old, he was asked to lead a group of ministers in Montgomery Alabama in their pursuit of right for people of color to sit where ever they wanted on the city buses and not be relegated to the last seats in the bus. History has come to know that effort as the Montgomery bus boycott that took place from 1955-1956. It began when Rosa Parks, a young black woman, refused to sit in the section of the bus reserved for colored people and instead sat in the “whites only section.” She refused to give up her seat and was promptly arrested and sent to jail.



When I was 26, I was a newly ordained priest serving the people of St. Joseph Parish in the city of Evansville. I was pretty insecure at that time and probably spent most of my efforts trying to get people to like me. I cannot even imagine having the courage of a person like Martin Luther King.

Many people reading about the Montgomery Bus Boycott might wonder what all the fuss was about. After all, most of us now can sit wherever they want to sit. They can eat wherever they want to eat and drink from whatever water fountain is available. But such was not the case in 1956 America.

As terrible as these particular situations were, they were but a symptom of the sin of racism that has been ever present in our nation’s history and continues today. We can and did outlaw these racial practices but that did not mean that the sin of racism ended.

Whenever people have had the courage to say to us, “what you are doing does not really line up to what you say you believe,” their questioning our behavior has

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

One of the ancient and traditional prayers during the season of Lent is The Stations of the Cross, also known as *Via Crucis—The Way of the Cross*. This prayer calls us to remember Jesus’ Passion, Death and Resurrection and to reflect on what it means for us to “take up our cross and follow Jesus.”



Each Tuesday during Lent, March 3, 10, 17 & 24 we will gather for Family Stations of the Cross from 5:30 – 6 pm at St. Joe Church. Bring your family as we reflect on Jesus’ walk to the cross.

LENTEN COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICES



Our Lenten Communal Penance Services will be held on **Wednesday, March 25 at 7 pm** and **Friday, March 27 at 11:00 am**. During these services we will use share a reflection on the Stations of the Cross as our examination of conscience.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also celebrated each Saturday from 4:00-4:40 pm and anytime upon request. Call Fr. Gene (812-499-9074) to arrange a time that is convenient.

been met with resistance. We should not be surprised by this. After all it happened to Jesus. Over and over, when he challenged people about what they were doing and what they believed, the people responded by plotting to get rid of him and kill him. And eventually they did.

Whenever the prevailing belief systems of people are challenged, what typically happens is that the people who have asked questions that challenge these belief systems get demonized. We hear things like “they are the problem, they are the ones who have brought this on themselves and they deserve what they get. That is a pattern that continues to day.

It certainly happened to Martin Luther King In his autobiography he recounts the violent threats that grew in response to

(Continued on page 7)

JOIN US MARCH 20 FOR AN EVENING OF QUIET REFLECTION AND SACRED MUSIC

Join us on Friday, March 20th at 7 pm in Church. Something special is in the works at St. Joe. A new experience for anyone who loves some good worship music. Something peaceful, beautiful, and glowing during this Lenten season...We could use a little help bringing it to life.

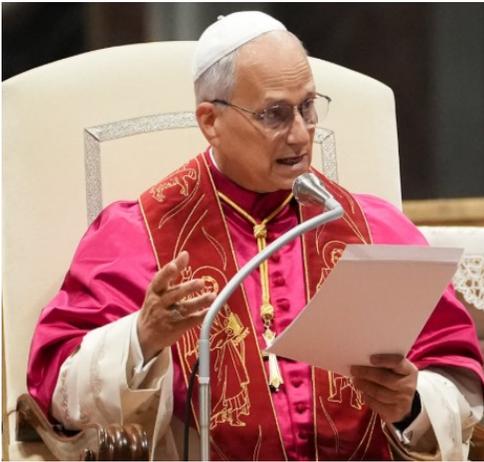
If you have battery-powered candles you’d be willing to lend for an upcoming evening event, they would be so grateful!

We are keeping the full surprise under wraps for now, but think: soft light... a calm, reflective atmosphere... something truly special at St. Joe



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POPE LEO SPEAKS TO DIPLOMATS

This past January Pope Leo, as have the popes before him, spoke to diplomats from throughout the world who are serving as ambassadors to the Vatican. This year, Pope Leo spoke about issues facing our world today.

promotes dialogue and seeks consensus among all parties is being replaced by a diplomacy based on force, by either individuals or groups of allies. War is back in vogue, and a zeal for war is spreading. The principle established after the Second World War, which prohibited nations from using force to violate the borders of others, has been completely undermined. Peace is no longer sought as a gift and a desirable good in itself, or in the pursuit of “the establishment of the ordered universe willed by God, with a more perfect form of justice among men and women.”

War is back in vogue and a zeal for war is spreading.

Instead, peace is sought through weapons as a condition for asserting one’s own dominion. This gravely threatens the rule of law, which is the foundation of all peaceful civil coexistence.

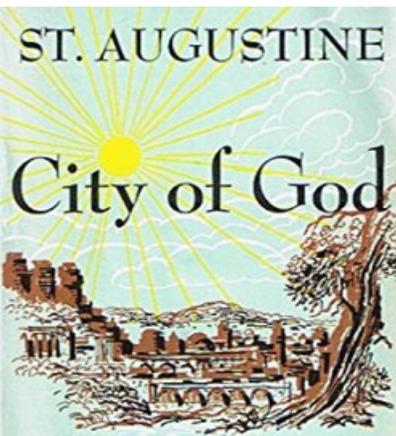
Furthermore, as Saint Augustine notes, “there is no one who does not wish to have peace. For even those who make war desire nothing but victory; they desire, that is to say, to attain to peace with glory. For what else is victory than the conquest of those who resist us? And when this is done there is peace... for even those who intentionally interrupt the peace in which they are living have no hatred of peace, but only wish it changed into a peace that suits them better. They do not, therefore, wish to have no peace, but only the peace that they desire.”

It was precisely this attitude that led humanity into the tragedy of the Second World War. From those ashes, the United Nations was born, whose eightieth anniversary was recently celebrated. The UN was established by the determination of fifty-one nations as the center of multilateral cooperation in order to prevent future global catastrophes, for safeguarding peace, defending fundamental human rights and promoting sustainable development.

Dear Ambassadors,

Prompted by the tragic events of the sack of Rome in 410 AD, Saint Augustine wrote *De Civitate Dei*, Augustine interprets events and history itself according to the model of two cities. In Augustine’s view, the two cities coexist until the end of time. Each has both an external and an internal dimension, for they are to be understood not only in light of the external manner in which they are constructed throughout history, but also through the lens of the internal attitudes of each human being towards the realities of life and historical events. In this perspective, each of us is a protagonist and thus responsible for history. Moreover, Augustine emphasizes that Christians are called by God to dwell in the earthly city with their hearts and minds turned towards the heavenly city, their true homeland. At the same time, Christians living in the earthly city are not strangers to the political world, and, guided by the Scriptures, seek to apply Christian ethics to civil government.

The *City of God* does not propose a political program. Instead, it offers valuable reflections on fundamental issues concerning social and political life, such as the search for a more just and peaceful coexistence among peoples. Augustine also warns of the grave dangers to political life arising from false representations of history, excessive nationalism and the distortion of the ideal of



the political leader.

Although the context in which we live today is different from that of the fifth century, some similarities remain highly relevant. We are now, as then, in an era of widespread migratory movements; as then, we are living at a time of a profound readjustment of geopolitical balances and cultural paradigms; as then, we are, in Pope Francis’s well-known expression, not in an era of change but in a change of era.

In our time, the weakness of multilateralism is a particular cause for concern at the international level. A diplomacy that

IT'S FISH FRY TIME THIS FRIDAY MARCH 13

Our second Lenten Fish Fry is coming up on March 13. Price for the dinners will be \$15 and, as last year, it will all be carry-out dinners.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

As we have in the past we are calling upon people to help get things ready. Here’s where you can help:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

- 7 AM: Cook the potatoes for the German Potato Salad. Meet at the storage building.
- 1 PM: Prepare ingredients for the potato salad and slaw
Meet in the cafeteria

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

- 7 AM: Set out fish to thaw
- 1 PM: Prepare the Potato Salad and Slaw
Meet in the cafeteria

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

- 1 PM: Make the corn bread
- 3 PM: Set up serving line
- 5-7: serve the carryout meals
- 6 PM: Clean up begins



Check your emails for updates. You can also volunteer by calling the parish office (812-963-3273) or simply by showing at the various times help is needed.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO JOIN US FOR A GREAT DINNER

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MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions made to St. Joseph Parish in memory of these loved ones. Let us continue to remember the gift they have been in our lives.

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH IN MEMORY OF

John Koch
Bob & Martha Baehl
Ruth Reisinger
Tom & Jane Seibert
Sylvia Reckelhoff
John & Marilyn Durchholz
John & Della Stock

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL Alma & Tony Scheller IN MEMORY OF

John Koch

IN MEMORY OF
Lee Askins
Randy & Darlene Appler
Phil & Becky Doshier
Bob & Mary K Fehrenbacher
Rocky Mattingly
Sylvia Reckelhoff

STRIKER PE ENDOWMENT IN MEMORY OF

Lee Askins
Terry Drone
Lisa & Charlie Cook
Dan & Mary Ruth Lasher

Jim & Susan Helmer
Jim & Jane Scheller
John & Diane Bassemier
S. Joe Senior Citizens
Bob & Martha Baehl
John East
Jim & Diane Werner
Stephen Preske
Shirley Happe
Marlene Voelker
Margie Hartman
Ruth Burk
Gary Fehrenbacher

DOSSET-HORAK LITRUGY ENDOWMENT IN MEMORY OF

Lee Askins
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Horak
Neal & Peggy Dossett

WILBUR MARIAN FEHRENBACHER CEMETERY ENDOWMENT IN MEMORY OF

*Wilbur & Marian
Fehrenbacher*
Mark Fehrenbacher

words and concepts that are used. Rediscovering the meaning of words is perhaps one of the primary challenges of our time. When words lose their connection to reality, and reality itself becomes debatable and ultimately incommunicable, we become like the two people to whom Saint Augustine refers, who are forced to stay together without either of them knowing the other's language. He observes that, "Dumb animals, even those of different species, understand each other more easily than these two individuals. For even though they are both human beings, their common nature is no help to friendliness when they are prevented by diversity of language from conveying their sentiments to one another; so that a man would more readily converse with his dog than with a foreigner!"

Today, the meaning of words is ever more fluid, and the concepts they represent are increasingly ambiguous. Language is no longer the preferred means by which human beings come to know and encounter one another. Moreover, in the contortions of semantic ambiguity, language is becoming more and more a weapon with which to deceive, or to strike and offend opponents. We need words once again to express distinct and clear realities unequivocally. Only in this way can authentic dialogue resume without misunderstandings. This should happen in our homes and public spaces, in politics, in the media and on social media. It should likewise occur in the context of international relations and multilateralism, so that the latter can regain the strength needed for undertaking its role of encounter and mediation. This is indeed necessary for preventing conflicts, and for ensuring that no one is tempted to prevail over others with the mindset of force, whether verbal, physical, or military.

We should also note the paradox that this weakening of language is often invoked in the name of freedom of expression itself. However, on closer inspection, the opposite is true, for freedom of speech and expression is guaranteed precisely by the certainty of language and the fact that every term is anchored in the truth. It is painful to see how, especially in the West, the space for genuine freedom of expression is rapidly shrinking. At the same time, a new Orwellian-style language is developing which, in an attempt to be increasingly inclusive, ends up excluding those who do not conform to the ideologies that are fueling it.

(Continued on page 4)

I would like to draw particular attention to the importance of international humanitarian law. Compliance with this cannot depend on mere circumstances and military or strategic interests. Humanitarian law, in addition to guaranteeing a minimum of humanity during the ravages of war, is a commitment that States have made. Such law must always prevail over the ambitions of belligerents, in order to mitigate the devastating effects of war, also with a view to reconstruction. We cannot ignore that the destruction of hospitals, energy infrastructure, homes, and places essential to daily life constitutes a serious violation of international humanitarian law. The Holy See firmly reiterates its condemnation of any form of involvement of civilians in military operations. It likewise hopes that the international community will remember that

Peace is no longer sought
as a desirable good.....
Instead, peace is sought
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one's own dominion.

the protection of the principle of the inviolability of human dignity and the sanctity of life always counts for more than any mere national interest.

The purpose of multilateralism is to provide a place where people can meet and talk. At the same time, in order to engage in dialogue, there needs to be agreement on the

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

WE ARE ACCEPTING
APPLICATIONS FOR
PRE-SCHOOL, PRE-K
and GRADES K-12



www.stjoeco.org/school



For information
contact our Principal
Mrs. Kelsey Meier
812-963-3335



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St. Joseph School
Vanderburgh County



WEDNESDAY
MARCH 18 6 PM

(Continued from page 3)

Pride obscures both reality itself and our empathy towards others. It is no coincidence that pride is always at the root of every conflict.

POPE LEO... (cont)

Unfortunately, this leads to other consequences that end up restricting fundamental human rights, starting with the freedom of conscience. In this regard, conscientious objection allows individuals to refuse legal or professional obligations that conflict with moral, ethical or religious principles deeply rooted in their personal lives. This may be the refusal of military service in the name of non-violence, or the refusal on the part of doctors and healthcare professionals to engage in practices such as abortion or euthanasia.

Conscientious objection is not rebellion, but an act of fidelity to oneself.

At this moment in history, freedom of conscience seems increasingly to be questioned by States, even those that claim to be based on democracy and human rights. This freedom, however, establishes a balance between the collective interest and individual dignity. It also emphasizes that a truly free society does not impose uniformity but protects the diversity of consciences, preventing authoritarian tendencies and promoting an ethical dialogue that enriches the social fabric.

In light of these challenges, we firmly reiterate that the protection of the right to life constitutes the indispensable foundation of every other human right. A society is healthy and truly progresses only when it safeguards the sanctity of human life and works actively to promote it.

The aforementioned considerations lead me to believe

COLLEGE STUDENT CARE - PACKAGES

WORKED HARD ALL SEMESTER

TIME TO ACE THE EXAM

Join us as we support our college students by preparing a care package for them as they prepare for semester exams. College Care Packages will be available in church Saturday/Sunday, March 7-8 for pick up. Please return the care packages no later than Sunday, March 29. Thank you for your continued support of this project. Let's keep all of our college youth in prayer.

that, in the current context, we are seeing an actual “short circuit” of human rights. The right to freedom of expression, freedom of conscience, religious freedom, and even the right to life are being restricted in the name of other so-called new rights, with the result that the very framework of human rights is losing its vitality and creating space for force and oppression. This occurs when each right becomes self-referential, and especially when it becomes disconnected from reality, nature and truth.

While Saint Augustine highlights the coexistence of the heavenly and earthly cities until the end of time, our era seems somewhat inclined to deny the city of God its “right of citizenship.” It seems that only the earthly city exists, enclosed exclusively within its borders. Seeking only immanent goods undermines that “tranquility of order,” which, for Augustine, constitutes the very essence of peace, which concerns society and nations as much as the human soul itself, and is essential for any civil coexistence. In the absence of a transcendent and objective foundation, only self-love prevails, to the point of indifference to God, who governs the earthly city. Yet, as Augustine notes, “great is the folly of pride in those individuals who think that the supreme good can be found in this life, and that they can become happy by their own resources.” Pride obscures both reality itself and our empathy towards others. It is no coincidence that pride is always at the root of every conflict. Consequently, we lose our sense of realism and surrender to a partial and distorted view of the world, disfigured by darkness and fear, thus paving the way for the mentality of confrontation, which is the precursor to every war.

While war is content with destruction, peace requires continuous and patient efforts of construction as well as constant vigilance.

We see this in many contexts, starting with the ongoing war in Ukraine and the suffering inflicted on the civilian population. Faced with this tragic situation, the Holy See strongly reiterates the pressing need for an immediate ceasefire, and for dialogue motivated by a sincere search for ways leading to peace. At the same time, we see this in the Holy Land, where, despite the truce announced in October, the civilian population continues to endure a serious humanitarian crisis, adding further suffering to that already experienced. The Holy See is especially attentive to any diplomatic initiative that seeks to guarantee to the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip a future of lasting peace and justice in their own land, as well as to the entire Palestinian people and the entire Israeli people.

This pertains in particular to Venezuela, in light of recent developments. In this regard, I renew my appeal to respect the will of the Venezuelan people, and to safeguard the human and civil rights of all, ensuring a future of stability and concord.

Other crises are scattered across the global landscape. First, I refer to the desperate situation in Haiti, marked by many forms of violence, from human trafficking to forced

MARCH 19 FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH PATRON SAINT OF OUR PARISH

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became Man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself as a father and guide us in the path of life.
Keep us safe in times of darkness and strife.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil.



Prayer composed by Pope Francis
INSCRIBED ON THE CORNERSTONE ABOVE
THE FRONT DOOR OF OUR CHURCH
DEO OPTIMO MAXIMO SUB
INVOCATIONE SANCTI
JOSEPHI A.D 1888
TO THE HONOR AND GLORY
OF GOD UNDER THE PATRONAGE
OF SAINT JOSEPH IN THE
YEAR OF OUR LORD 1888

DEO OPTIMO MAXIMO
SUB INVOCATIONE
SANCTI JOSEPHI
A.D. 1888

exile and kidnappings. Nor can we forget the situation that has affected the Great Lakes region of Africa for decades, plagued by violence that has claimed many victims. Similarly, I think of the situation in Sudan, which has been transformed into a vast battlefield, as well as the continuing political instability in South Sudan, the youngest country in the family of nations, which came into being following the referendum fifteen years ago.

We cannot fail to mention the intensifying signs of tension in East Asia, and to express hope that all parties involved will adopt a peaceful and dialogue-based approach to the contentious issues that are a source of potential conflict.

My thoughts turn in particular to the grave humanitarian and security crisis afflicting Myanmar, which was further aggravated by the devastating earthquake last March. With renewed intensity, I make an appeal that paths of peace and inclusive dialogue be courageously chosen, so as to guarantee everyone fair and timely access to humanitarian aid.

At the heart of many of the situations I have mentioned, we can see something that Augustine himself pointed out, namely the persistent idea that peace is only possible through the use of force and deterrence. While war is content with destruction, peace requires continuous and patient efforts of construction as well as constant vigilance. Such efforts are required of everyone, starting with the countries that possess nuclear arsenals.

Notwithstanding the tragic situation before our eyes, peace remains a difficult yet realistic good. As Augustine reminds us, peace is “the aim of our good,” because it is the very aim of the City of God, to which we aspire, even unconsciously, and of which we can enjoy a foretaste even in the earthly city. During our pilgrimage on this earth, peacemaking requires humility and courage. The humility to live truthfully and the courage to forgive. In the Christian life, we see these virtues reflected at Christmas, when Truth, the eternal Word of God, becomes humble flesh, and at Easter, when the condemned Righteous One forgives his persecutors and grants them his life as the Risen One.

Moreover, if we look more closely, there is no shortage

Peacemaking requires the humility to live truthfully and the courage to forgive.

of signs of courageous hope in our time, and we must constantly support them. I think, for example, of the Dayton Accords, which thirty years ago put an end to the bloodstained war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Despite difficulties and tensions, they opened up the possibility of a more prosperous and harmonious future. I think too of the Joint Declaration of Peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan, signed last August. We hope this will pave the way for a just and lasting peace in the South Caucasus, and resolve the outstanding issues to the satisfaction of both parties. I likewise call to mind the efforts made in recent years by the Vietnamese Authorities to improve relations with the Holy See and the conditions in which the Church functions in the country. These are all seeds of peace that need to be cultivated.

This coming October will mark the eighth century of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, a man of peace and dialogue, universally recognized even by those who do not belong to the Catholic Church. His life shines brightly, for it was inspired by the courage to live in truth, and the knowledge that a peaceful world is built starting with humble hearts turned towards the heavenly city.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS March 21, 2026--April 12, 2026

DATE	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	READERS
Saturday March 21, 2026 5 PM	Diane Woods Eric Reffett Mary Loehrlein Carolyn Hutchinson	Jim Hermann
Sunday March 22, 2026 8 AM	Brian and Ann Craney Marcia Frey Terry Drone	Josh Baehl
Sunday March 22, 2026 10:30 AM	Sally Kempf Cecelia Koch Kitty Deig Paul Hillenbrand	Shane Wessel
Saturday March 28, 2026 5 PM	Mary Kay Fehrenbacher Donna Niemeier Eric and Karen McDonald	SPECIAL READERS
Sunday March 29, 2026 8 AM	Chick Duncan Lisa Cook Rodney and Paula Baehl	SPECIAL READERS
Sunday March 29, 2026 10:30 AM	Jena Wessel Rachael Schnaus Becky Doshier Steve Jung	SPECIAL READERS
Saturday April 4, 2026 NB 7 PM	Butch and Linda Feulner Sis & Katie Jarboe	Tom Blythe
Sunday April 5, 2026 8 AM	Darlene Appler Kylie Frey Stephanie Frey Jalane Weber Bryan & Ann Craney , Lisa Cook	Marcia Frey
Sunday April 5, 2026 10:30 AM	Shane Wessel Debra Baumgart Al Debes Angie Will	Chad Martin
Saturday April 11, 2026 5:00 PM	Peter and Jodi Fehrenbacher Donald Werner Brandon Werner	Sis Jarboe
Sunday April 12, 2026 8:00 AM	Tom & Delores Folz Imogene Baehl Michael Elpers	Terry Drone
Sunday April 12, 2026 10:30 AM	Diane Bassemier Danielle Weledge Doris Taylor Debra Baumgart	Shane Wessel

SOURCE + SUMMIT
YOUTH RETREAT
MARCH 13, 14, 15, 2026
MATER DEI HIGH SCHOOL

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life"
John 14:6

FRIENDS FAITH FUN

TO REGISTER & MORE INFORMATION
812-453-1024
www.sourcesummitkansville.org

**COME JOIN US AS
WE CELEBRATE
HOLY WEEK**



PALM SUNDAY—MARCH 29

Masses (Saturday, March 28) 5 pm and Sunday 8 & 10:30 am

Blessed Palms will be available at all the Masses. During each of the Masses we will proclaim together the Passion of Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

CHRISM MASS—TUESDAY—MARCH 31

5:30 pm at St. Benedict's Church

During this Mass, Bishop Siegel will bless the Holy Oils used for Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders, and Anointing of the Sick.



HOLY THURSDAY-APRIL 2nd

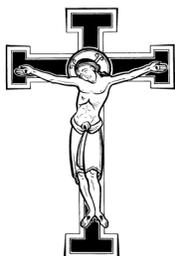
MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 7 pm
During Mass we will renew our commitment to live a life of service that finds its strength in the Eucharist. Our church will be open all day for people to spend time in prayer.

FRIDAY—APRIL 3rd

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION 7 pm

During this time we will proclaim together the Passion of Jesus Christ from the Gospel of John, pray for the needs of the church and world, have veneration of the cross, and share in communion.

The church will be open all day for prayer.



HOLY SATURDAY—APRIL 4th
EASTER VIGIL—EASTER SERVICES DURING THE NIGHT 7 pm

During the Easter Vigil Services we will light the Easter Fire, bless the new paschal candle and proclaim readings from scripture.

We will bless the baptismal waters and baptize our new members, renew our baptismal vows, receive our new members into our church through Confirmation and celebrate the Eucharist with them.

EASTER SUNDAY—APRIL 5th

Masses at 8 and 10:30 am
During the Mass we will proclaim the scripture readings, renew our baptismal promises, and celebrate the Eucharist



EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS.... we are inviting you to remember your loved ones at Easter. Please send your contribution along with the names of the people you want to remember to the parish office (through the collection or through the mail) by March 25th. Names will be published in the Easter Bulletin.

CELEBRATING HOLY WEEK WITH CHILDREN

Each year we have special Holy Week liturgies geared to children.



Friday, March 20th at 7:30 am
Children's Palm Sunday Mass



Thursday, April 2nd at 8:00 am
Holy Thursday Service with Children.



Friday, April 3rd at 8, 9 & 10 am
Good Friday Prayer Service with Children.
This service is repeated at 8, 9, & 10 am



Friday, April 10th at 7:30 am
Children's Celebration of Easter.

You are invited to join in any of these services with your children.



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

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

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



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

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



DIOCESAN POLICY: REPORT AND INFORM: The Diocese of Evansville has in place a policy that requires that any allegation of child abuse must be reported to Child Protection Services, an agency of Indiana state government. CPS Toll-free: (800) 800-5556 Local law enforcement: 9-1-1. In the event of an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor (a person under 18) by diocesan personnel, report the allegation to authorities, and inform the Victims Assistance Coordinator for the diocese: Toll-free: (866) 200-3004 Local: (812) 490-9565.

CEMETERY NEWS

HELP US GET THE CEMETERY READY FOR THE LAWN MOWING SEASON

For the common good, the cemetery board has established guidelines for cemetery decorations. The basic rule our cemetery board is trying to follow is this: any decorations or flowers need to be attached to the grave monument itself or placed securely in flower containers that are a part of the grave monument. Anything else placed around the grave monument creates a hazard for our lawn mowing crews.

To help us get ready for our lawn mowing season, we ask that you remove any decorations around your cemetery tomb-



stones that might get in the way of our lawn mowing crews. Remember that flowers and plaques must be attached securely to the tombstone or flower vases. Shepherd's crooks, statues, balloons, and the like are not permitted as they are a haz-

ard to our mowing crews.

For those who have placed artificial flowers on the graves of their loved ones, please be sure to check them periodically and remove any old and faded and shredded flowers.

Planting flowers around the graves is not permitted as we do not have the time nor the personnel to weed these flower gardens.

Thanks for your help in keeping our cemetery a place of honor and respect as well as a safe place for our lawn mowing crews.

IT'S LAWN MOWING TIME. COME JOIN THE CROWD THAT IS A "CUT ABOVE."

It's time to start planning for the lawn mowing season in our parish. We're always looking to add some people who can help mow the large areas of our campus with our riding mowers and to join one of our existing mowing crews. These crews mow the lawn around the rectory, church, school and convent and the cemetery. We provide all the equipment (self-propelled lawn mowers, riding lawn mower, weed eaters, and refreshments for the workers!).

Maybe you could be one of these people. Call the parish office (812-963-3273) or Randy Tenbarge (812-205-5139) to offer your help or for more information. Not only can you help the parish save money, but you can also help in keeping our grounds looking nice, and it's great exercise!

CEMETERY BOARD MEETING NOTES—February, 2026

The cost for a double grave \$1,700.00 (parishioners), \$3,400 (former parishioners) single grave \$850.00 (parishioners), \$1700 (former parishioners). Cost for a niche space in our cremation columbarium for \$1,500 (parishioner) \$3,000 (former parishioner).

The cremation columbarium has now been installed and the groundwork, landscaping and electrical work have been completed. So far 8 niches have been sold.

Cemetery income for 2025 was \$14,250 and expenses were \$2,090.81. There are now four specific endowments providing for the ongoing maintenance of our cemetery: St Joseph Cemetery, Clarence and Catherine Miller Endowment, Leroy and Rose Weiss Endowment and Wilbur and Marian Fehrenbacher Cemetery Endowment. Money generated from these endowments is currently in an interest bearing account that is accessible for use for cemetery expenses.

(Continued from page 1)
his work for justice:

BEING COURAGEOUS... (cont)

Almost immediately after the protest [in Montgomery, Alabama] started we had begun to receive threatening telephone calls and letters. They increased as time went on. By the middle of January, they had risen to thirty and forty a day....

As the weeks passed, I began to see that many of the threats were in earnest. Soon I felt myself faltering and growing in fear.... One night at a mass meeting, I found myself saying, "If one day you find me sprawled out dead, I do not want you to retaliate with a single act of violence. I urge you to continue protesting with the same dignity and discipline you have shown so far."

After receiving a threatening late-night phone call, King's resolve was renewed through prayer and an experience of God's presence and call:

It seemed that all of my fears had come down on me at once. I had reached the saturation point.... I was ready to give up.... I tried to think of a way to move out of the picture without appearing a coward.... And I got to the point that I couldn't take it any longer.... With my head in my hands, I bowed over the kitchen table and prayed aloud.



The words I spoke to God that midnight are still vivid in my memory; "Lord, I'm down here trying to do what's right. I think I'm right. I am here taking a stand for what I believe is right, but Lord, I must confess that I'm weak now, I'm faltering. I'm losing my courage. Now, I am afraid. And I can't let the people see me like this because if they see me weak and losing my courage, they will begin to get weak. The people are looking to me for leadership, and if I stand before them without strength and courage, they too will falter. I am at the end of my powers. I have nothing left. I've come to the point where I can't face it alone."

It seemed as though I could hear the quiet assurance of an inner voice saying: "Martin Luther, stand up for righteousness. Stand up for justice. Stand up for truth. And lo, I will be with you. Even until the end of the world."

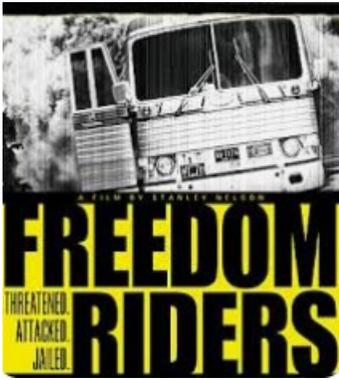
I tell you I've seen the lightning flash. I've heard the thunder roar. I've felt sin breakers dashing trying to conquer my soul. But I heard the voice of Jesus saying still to fight on. He promised never to leave me alone. At that moment I experienced the presence of the Divine as I had never experienced Him before. Almost at once my fears began to go. My uncertainty disappeared. I was ready to face anything.

I would like to think I would have this kind of courage. Maybe now, as I have just turned 73, might be able to summon a little bit of this courage to face the things I face in my life. But I simply cannot imagine having that courage when I was 26.

(Continued on page 8)

RUMMAGEis on for June 5-6. We are inviting you to save your gently used items for the rummage sale.

SALE Rule of thumb—if you wouldn't buy it at a rummage sale, then don't bring it. We regret that we cannot accept electronic items, old computers, TV's and the like. More information to be coming in the weeks ahead. Got any suggestions or questions? Contact Imogene (812) 963-5221.



Even if I believed in my heart, that what Martin Luther King was talking about was right, ashamedly, I have to admit that I don't think I would have had the courage to publically stand up for what was right and risk ridicule from others or even outright condemnation.

As I think about Martin Luther King, I also recall John Lewis. In his later life John Lewis served as a congressman for many years from the state of Georgia. At

the age of 15 he was inspired by the sermons of Martin Luther King. In the early 1960's he was a young man who was one of the leaders in the Student Non Violent Coordinating Committee.

One of the things that he was involved in was the Freedom Riders Campaign in the early 1960's. Even though the United States Supreme Court had outlawed segregation in interstate travel facilitates, many places, like bus terminals remained segregated. The Freedom Riders Campaign was an effort to highlight this and bring about change. In Rock Hill South Carolina, he attempted to enter a "whites only" restroom and was beaten by Ku Klux Klan member named Elwin Wilson.

What is interesting about this encounter is not that it was an ugly incident of racism. There were far worse incidents like this that happened throughout the civil rights movement involving beating people, sending police dogs to attack protesters, hosing protestors with water, including children, with fire hoses. What makes this encounter significant is what happened forty eight years later, in 2009, when John Lewis was serving as a congressman.

After a lifetime of racism, Wilson, spurred on by his son and a good friend, began to shed his racist views late in life. "My daddy always told me that a fool never changes his mind, and a smart man changes his mind," he explained.

Determined to begin to make amends in 2009, Wilson went to his local newspaper and admitted his participation in the attacks on freedom riders nearly 48 years earlier. When he found out that one of his victims, John Lewis, was now a member of Congress, Wilson travelled to Washington to apologize to him face to face.

"I attacked you, and I'm sorry," he said. "I want to apologize. Will you accept my apology?" Lewis later recalled. Lewis did, and the two men embraced, weeping.



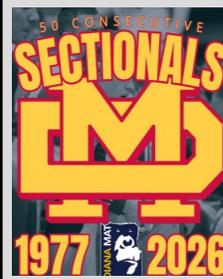
Lewis and Wilson went on to make several public appearances together, talking about their reconciliation. "I never thought I could apologize to this many people," Wilson said. "I feel like I'm apologizing to the world right now."

Three very different people. They faced challenging times and yet each of them summoned some courage in their lives and then acted upon it. We too face challenging times in our lives and in the life of our country and these challenges are rooted in issues that were so familiar to Martin Luther King, John Lewis and Elwin Wilson—issues like racism and the treatment of immigrants. For many of us, facing these issues can seem beyond our ability to do anything about. As a result we can feel very overwhelmed by them and try to just put them out of our minds and try to go about our daily life.

What helps us get beyond this sense of being overwhelmed?

Saluting our Young Parishioners

- Congratulations to Piper Fehrenbacher who was chosen as Queen of the Mater Dei Basketball Homecoming Court.



Ellie Bishop and Stella Spaetti were also chosen to be part of the Homecoming court.

- Grant Voelker, David Altstadt, Owen Traylor, Owen Messal and Chase Waninger helped lead the Mater Dei Wildcat wrestling team to its 50th straight sectional championship.

Actually it happens when we begin by doing something, even when that something seems small and insignificant. That's really not anything new. When we face tasks in life that seem beyond about ability, just doing one small thing has a way of reducing the sense of being overwhelmed. We made a start and that changes the energy within us.

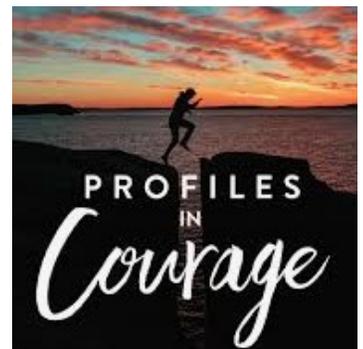
Jesus said this same thing to his disciples. Often times they felt unable to do anything. When Jesus told them to feed the people who had come to listen to him, their response was "all we have are a few loaves of bread and some fish, but how can that be enough." But then Jesus took what they had and showed that that they could feed everyone with it. (Matt. 14: 13-21) St Paul would say much the same thing when he told the people of Ephesus, "I give thanks to God whose power now at work in your lives can do far more than you can ask or even imagine." (Ephesians 3: 20)

So now, in this moment we are called to summon up some courage in our lives. What might that look like? Well, the next time we are praying the rosary or spending sometime at Eucharistic adoration we might ask God to help us know how we are called to welcome the stranger in our lives. May it means asking for the courage to try to stand in the shoes of the immigrants who are in our country, asking ourselves "what must it be like to a father or mother who is trying their best to care for their children."

Maybe summoning up courage means resisting the temptation to find comfort in easy answers and simple back and white solutions. That may mean that the next time we hear something on the news or on social media we may ask ourselves "what are these people trying to get me to believe?"

Summoning up courage may be to try to stand in the shoes of public officials especially law enforcement people who are often placed in the middle of situations where emotions run high. I think of the policemen and national guards members who were in the thick of the many of the confrontations that occurred during the civil rights confrontations in the 1960's. What has happened to them with the passage of time?

Maybe summoning up courage means writing to our elected officials and to tell them we want our country not just to protect us from criminals but to also welcome immigrants since we are all immigrants. And above all, we want our country to treat people with dignity and respect, even those we



(Continued on page 12)

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*



SPECIAL COLLECTION MARCH 28-29 TO SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF SEMINARIANS FOR MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH IN VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND ON GOOD FRIDAY



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

also helps to preserve the sacred shrines.

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

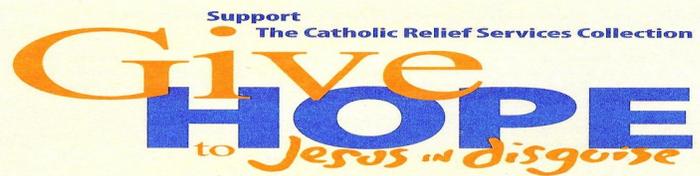
COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

If you find yourself wondering what a person can do in the face of so much suffering in so many parts of the world, supporting this collection is a great way to help. Catholic Relief Services is an official part of the Catholic Church in the United States. It is the way that the Catholic Church reaches out to those who are suffering in Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Sudan, Yemen, and so many other places throughout the world where people are suffering.

Through humanitarian aid, resettling displaced individuals and families, and advocating on behalf of victims, the Catholic Relief Services Collection allows us to see every encounter with a suffering person as an opportunity to help Jesus in disguise.

There is an envelope in your monthly packet of envelopes which you can use to make a contribution. Or you may drop your offering in the collection or send it to us in the mail.

To learn more about the work of Catholic Relief Services, visit their website: www.crs.org



CREATING AN AWARENESS FOR RECYCLING MEANS LOOKING AT THE THINGS WE THROW AWAY AND ASKING "CAN THIS BE RECYCLED?" *Laudato si'*
JUST ONE MORE WAY WE CAN LEARN TO CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME



Catholic Charities is inviting you to become part of a Christian-based mentoring program to help at-risk employees keep jobs that provide economic security for their families. If you ...

- are a hopeful person,
- are able to empathize and care for others,
- see value and dignity in work want personal growth. Consider...
- meeting with young at-risk employee on a regular basis for up to 18 months
- guiding the at-risk employee to a long-term employment and family stability
- sharing your experience and faith growth with other mentors

If you are interested, contact Catholic Charities 2111 Stringtown Road, Evansville, IN 47711 Phone: 812-423-5456 email: CatholicCharities@evdio.org



BLOOD DRIVE SUNDAY MARCH 29 8 -- NOON IN THE GYM



Thanks so much for your weekly donations of food to the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry. Every Tuesday Terry Drone arrives with multiple bags of groceries. In addition, several members of the parish send monetary donations on a regular basis.

When you go to do your grocery shopping, adding an extra box of cereal, a jar of peanut butter, a bag of beans or rice, or a jar of pasta turns your grocery cart into a small act of heroism. Put your items in the food barrels at the church doors.

Remember too, the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry is always looking for volunteers who are willing to work a few hours in the food pantry, sorting and packaging food. They can also use help handling the calls for assistance for rent, utilities, and other help.



We are grateful for your partnership with in this much needed ministry. Dorothy Day, echoing the words of scripture said: *The mystery of the poor is that they are Jesus, and what you do for them, you do for Him.* What an important awareness to live by: Christ comes to us "disguised" in the need of our neighbor. It is evident you are aware of—and act on—this truth.

TURN YOUR GROCERY CART INTO A SIMPLE ACT OF HEROISM



Help provide affordable housing for those in need. Come join us at the Habitat of Evansville Volunteer Center located at 935 Maxwell right down from Escalade Sports.



Work inside. Simple jobs. Bring a hammer and start hammering away. 812-423-5623 for more information



March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>FISH FRY Friday March 13th Serving from 5-7 pm DRIVE THRU CARRYOUT ONLY</p>						
 <p>LENT..... PRAYING FOR THE GRACE TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR NEED OF THE LORD AND HIS MERCY</p>		 <p>LENT..... REMEMBERING THAT PEACE AND SECURITY ARE FOUND IN SHARING WHAT WE HAVE WITH ALL THOSE IN NEED</p>		 <p>LENT..... FASTING FROM OUR NEED TO HAVE EVERYTHING AND CHOOSING TO STAND WITH THOSE WHO HAVE VERY LITTLE</p>		
1 MASS 8 & 10:30 Coffee & Donuts 9 am RCIA and Family Religious Education 9 Haiti & Food Pantry Collection Confirmation Mass with Bishop Siegel 10:30 am	2 5 am Boot Camp 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass	3 MASS 7:30 AM Family Way of the Cross 5:30 pm` PRAYER DAY FOR VOCATIONS TUESDAY 6 AM -- WEDNESDAY 6AM	4 5 am Boot Camp Mass 7:30 am Staff Meeting 12-2 That Man is You 5:30 Bible Study 6:45	5 NO MASS	6 5am Boot Camp 7:30 am Mass Women's Bible Study 8:30 am	7 Food Pantry/Haiti Collection Sacrament of Reconciliation 4 pm Mass 5 pm COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES AVAILABLE Time Changes Women's Retreat
8 MASS 8-10:30 Religious Education and RCIA 9 am Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30 Food Pantry Collection Women's Retreat College Care Packages Available	9 5am Boot Camp 7am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration Mass 6:30 PM Knights of St. John Meeting 7 PM	10 7:30 AM Mass Family Way of the Cross 5:30 pm	11 5am Soul Core 7:30 AM Mass Parish Staff Meeting 12-2 pm Fish Fry Preparations 1 pm That Man is You 5:30 Bible Study 6:45	12 NO MASS Haiti Ministry Meeting 7 pm Altar Society 6 pm Fish Fry Preparations 1 pm	13 7:30 am Mass Senior Citizens 1pm Fish Fry Preparations 12 Noon & 3:30 pm FISH-FRY 5-7 pm CarryOut Only Clean Up 6:30 pm	14 Food Pantry Collection Sacrament of Reconciliation 4pm Mass 5 pm Source and Summit March 13-15
15 MASS 8-10:30 RCIA 9 am Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30 Food Pantry Collection	16 5am Boot Camp 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration MASS 6:30 PM Men's Club 7 pm	17 7:30 AM Mass Family Way of the Cross 5:30 pm	18 5 am Soul Core 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff 12 Noon That Man is You 5:30 Bible Study 6:45	19 NO MASS FEAST OF ST JOSEPH 	20 5 am Boot Camp 7:30 am Mass Concert of Sacred Music & Prayer 7 pm WOMEN'S CURSILLO	21 Food Pantry Collection Sacrament of Reconciliation 4pm Mass 5 pm THURSDAY-SUNDAY
22 MASS 8-10:30 RCIA 9am Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30 Food Pantry Collection Catholic Relief Services Collection	23 5 am Boot Camp 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration MASS 6:30 PM SCHOOL SPRING BREAK MARCH 23-27	24 7:30 am Mass Family Way of the Cross 5:30 pm	25 5 am Soul Core 7:30 am Mass That Man is You 5:30 Bible Study 6:45 Penance Service 7 pm	26 No Mass  FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION MARCH 25	27 5 am Boot Camp 7:30 am Mass Penance Service 11 am	28 Food Pantry Collection Sacrament of Reconciliation 4pm Mass 5 pm
29 Mass 8 & 10:30 am Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30 Food Pantry Collection Family Class & RCIA 9 am BLOOD DRIVE 8 AM -Noon 	30 5am Boot Camp 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration MASS 6:30 PM HOLY WEEK 	31 7:30 am Mass Family Way of the Cross 5:30 pm	1 5 am Soul Core 7:30 am Mass	2 8AM Children's Prayer Service 7 pm Holy Thursday Mass 	3 Children's Good Friday Services 8, 9, & 10 7 PM Good Friday Celebration 	4 7 PM Easter Mass at Night 

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WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday—5 PM

Sunday—8 & 10:30 AM

Fr. Gene Schroeder—Pastor

E-mail gschroeder@evdio.org

Ms. Kristan Gilles—Director of Liturgy

E-mail kgilles@evdio.org

Mrs. Kelsey Meier—Principal

E-mail kmeier@evdio.org

Mrs. Julie Kempf—Secretary

E-mail jkempf@evdio.org

Mrs. Jessica Reckelhoff

Religious Education Coordinator

E-mail jreckelhoff@evdio.org



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

“St. Joseph Vanderburgh County” and
 “St. Joseph School Vanderburgh County”

(Continued from page 8)
 think of as our enemies.



person at work we really don't know.

As we summon up courage in our lives, it would be good to remember two other very courageous people. The first was the Jesuit priest and scientist, words of Teilhard de Chardin. He believed that God was ultimately making all things work together for good. As a young man serving as a medic in the army of France during World War I and later having lived through the economic depression of the 1930's and the horrors of World War II he saw the very worst that people can do to each other. And yet he could continue to believe that God was still at work bring new life to the world. He reminded people to “always trust in the slow word of God.”

Or maybe summoning up courage means taking the time to make our hearts big enough to welcome the stranger in our lives—the neighbor we never talk to, the worker who serves our food or the



The second was the great spiritual teacher, Julian of Norwich who reminded people, all things will be well and all manner of things will be well. She lived during the period of the black plague where almost 75% of the people in Europe died, a time when England and France were engaged in the 100 year war and things in the Catholic church were in such disarray that there were actually three people claiming to be the Pope at the same time. And yet, in the midst of all that, Julian believed that God continued to love people and that, in the end, all things will be well.

BEING COURAGEOUS... (cont)

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO GROW IN YOUR FAITH?

Check out our parish website www.stjoeco.org/on-line resources. There you can pray the rosary with different scriptural reflections and have access to reflections on the readings at Mass each Sunday through the **Word Among Us** and **First Impressions** from Fr. Jude Siciliano.

You can also access **FOR YOUR MARRIAGE** where you will find reflections about dating and being engaged, married life and family life and parenting.

You also have the chance to access daily meditations, saint of the day reflections as well as resources for children and family all from **Franciscan Media**.

You can also find reflections from Fr. Ron Rohlheiser, Philip Guley, Sr. Joan Chittister, and Fr. Richard Rohr as well as **podcasts** including “The Spiritual Life,” “The Growing Edge” “Everything Belongs,” “Turning to the Mystics,” “Learning How To See,” and “Everything Happens.”



Coming.....March 7 & 8, 2026



Join us for this exciting 2 day retreat. We will host motivational talks brunch, dinner, snacks, drinks, crafts, Music, and a spa hour. This retreat is a time to get away from all the daily distractions, deepen your faith, all the while sharing in love for the Lord. Register on line at St. Joe Facebook. \$50/person or contact Jessica (jreckelhoff@evdio.org) or Rachael (rschnaus@yahoo) to register or for questions.