THE CARPENTER

ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

VANDERBURGH COUNTY EVANSVILLE, INDIANA ESTABLISHED IN 1841

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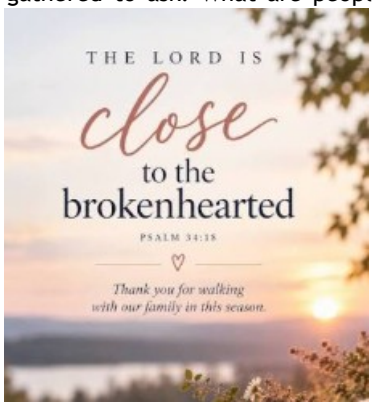
NOVEMBER, 2026

THE JOY OF LOVING IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Fr Gene Schroeder
PASTOR

This past October, Pope Leo gathered with religious leaders as well as married couples at a special synod in Rome at the Vatican. They came to access how well the church has responded to Pope's Francis' teaching letter, *Amoris Laetitia*. This letter was written in 2016 and sought to speak to people about the nature of family and marriage. You can read Pope Leo's introductory address to this group beginning on page 4 of this letter.

In setting the tone for this gathering, Pope Leo invited those gathered to ask: What are people truly seeking beneath these cultural changes? What do their joys and hopes, grieves and anxieties reveal to us? Where do our pastoral language and practices succeed in opening a path, and where do they fail to touch people's hearts or assist their efforts to do what is good? What is the lived experience of families teaching us—an experience from which we have not yet fully learned?



Pope Leo challenged the group to read the signs of the time with regards to marriage and family as well as the gift of sexuality that is so much at the heart of these issues. What are the signs of the time? One of the biggest issues that this group identified as having the biggest challenges to marriage and family these days is the effects of migration on families. We are in the biggest world wide migration in history, as many people flee incessant wars and economic hardship that we can scarcely imagine.

This is not a challenge that young people in our country face as they contemplate marriage and family. But we face challenges as well. What are they? I think we have to begin with the sincerity of people. In their own way, I think most people are truthful when they say they want to embrace the way of life that Jesus lays out for us in the gospel. That being said, I think we also have to acknowledge some other realities. One of these realities is that fewer and fewer people are getting married, but instead opt for living together. This fact was acknowledged by church leaders at this recent gathering at the Vatican.

Even when people opt for getting married, fewer and fewer people choose to get married in church. Many choose to get married at some outdoor venue or a "destination wedding." It is not uncommon for a friend to obtain a one day license from the state to officiate at the wedding.

Even when weddings are held in church, the attention often gets focused on the incidentals of the wedding—things like flowers, dresses, church decorations, whether or not folks can throw rice on the newly weds when they exit church.

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BRUTE SOCIETY INDUCTEES

John & Bonnie Bittner and Jackie & Tom Elsner

Each year our parish is invited to nominate two individuals/couples to be inducted into the Brute´ Society. The Brute´ Society recognizes individuals whose lives reflect the example of stewardship set by Bishop Brute´, the first bishop of the Indiana territory. There are so many people who are worthy of being inducted into the Brute' Society. And so the task of selecting two couples/individuals is very challenging. This year we have chosen to honor Tom and Jackie Elsner and John and Bonnie Bittner.

All of them have demonstrated a willingness to offer their time and efforts not just to serve the parishes they have been in over the years, including our parish, but have demonstrated a spirit of good stewardships in the larger community as well. For John and Bonnie, this stewardship was most evident in the work they did farming the land and operating a dairy farm. They know the value of caring for the earth and learning how to ensure that crops are pollinated by maintaining bee hives.

JACKIE AND TOM

JOHN AND BONNIE

Tom and Jackie have been key supporters of our Haiti mission through the years. Tom has also been instrumental in the work of the Men's Club as well as working with Boy Scout Programs. For many years, he has served on the Board of Directors of Camp Carson near Princeton, Indiana.

We give thanks for the example of John & Bonnie and Tom and Jackie and we pray that their example of stewardship will inspire all of us to allow God to use the gifts we have to serve others.

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR PLEDGE TO THE CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL (CPC)?

PARISH GOAL	$131,040.00
PLEDGED TO DATE	$ 79,650.08
NUMBER OF PLEDGES	151
AVERAGE PLEDGE	$527,49

THANK YOU

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

Thank you for supporting the good work done in our diocese.

REMEMBERING OUR PARISHIONERS WHO DIED THIS PAST YEAR

In our Catholic Tradition, the month of November is traditionally a time to remember those who have died and gone before us marked with the sign of faith. This year we remember especially these members of our parish who have died since last year.

Lee Askins
Nov. 6, 2025

Ray Hamner
Feb. 5, 2026

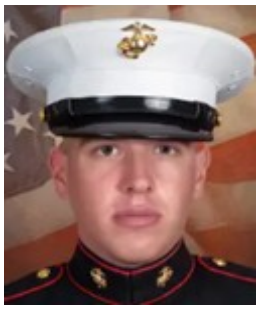
Margaret Kafel
March 4, 2026

Rudy Schrefer
April 7, 2026

Janet Zirkelbach
April 24, 2026

Marilyn Mossberger
May 1, 2026

Jim Gries
May 25, 2026



Steve Hasselbrinck
June 23, 2026

Beverly Jones
August 1, 2026

Jim Geiser
Aug. 21, 2026

Bill Cody
Sept. 2, 2026

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REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES AT MASS

To be named and to be remembered are deeply held human needs. We all want to know that people will remember us, that we will not be forgotten. Remembering is a gift we give to others. Each time we recall a memory of those we love, they continue to live in our hearts.

One of the ways we have done this is by praying for them when we come together for Mass. Many of you will remember this as "having a Mass celebrated for a particular person." Each week we list the particular intentions in the weekly bulletin. These are the names of loved ones that people would like the parish to remember at Mass.

All of us know members of our family who have died: an aunt or uncle, a cousin, a grandparent or a child or even a close friend or co-worker. Even if your loved ones do not happen to have been a member of the Catholic Church, you are invited to share their names as well. You may also want to list the particular day you want to remember them—perhaps their birthday, or wedding anniversary, or the day they died. If you come to a particular Mass, you may want to ask that your loved ones be remembered at that particular time.

For your convenience, you can use the slip on this page to submit your names and the day and time you want to remember them. There is no charge for this, but if you would like to make a donation to the church in memory of your loved ones, you may do so.

Grant eternal rest to all the souls of the faithful departed and let your perpetual light shine upon them

Submit the names of the people you want to remember and the day on which you want to remember them using the slip below. Cut it out and send it to us through the mail or drop it in the collection. You can also email us jkempf@evdio.org with the names you want to remember

NAMES **DATE AND TIME**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Prepare your heart and mind this Easter with an inspirational Women's Retreat. **Beginning Saturday, April 3 from 8:30 am-10:00pm and ending on Sunday, April 4 with 10:30 am Mass.** What a great way to enter into the busy Lenten season. Contact Jessica Reckelhoff (812-598-1151 jreckelhoff@evdio.org) or Rachel Schnaus (rschnaus@yahoo.com) to register.

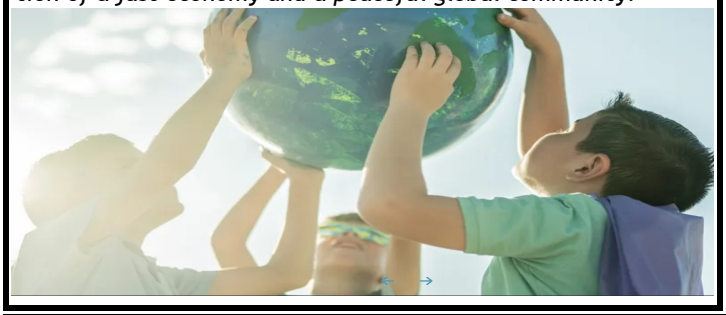
CHARTER FOR COMPASSION

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.



Sunday December 6
9 am --Noon

Invite our family, friends and neighbors! Proceeds benefit the St. Joe 8th Grade Class Project

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions that were given in memory of these loved ones. Let us continue to remember the gift they have been in the life of their families and in the life of our parish

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

IN MEMORY OF
Ray Hamner
DJ & Debbie Thompson
Pat & Jeanne Freeman
Ray & Charlene Schapker
Barbara Burgess
Rita Skelton
Bob & Mary Kay Fehrenbacher
Tim & Donna Mitchell
Edward & Holley Brundick
Dennis & Kathryn Bibbee
Evansville Police Foundation

IN MEMORY OF
Marilyn Mossberger
Katherine Riedford

IN MEMORY OF
Beverly Jones
Amy Seiler
David & Donna Dippel
Susie Schapker
John & Diane Bassemier
Rick & Pauline Elpers
Steve & Debbie Scheller
Jim & Susan Helmer

IN MEMORY OF
Billy Cody
Gary Fehrenbacher
Steve & Becky Jung
Greg & Jennifer Schmitz

ST JOE SHOOL ARCHERY PROGRAM

IN MEMORY OF
Billy Cody
David Baumeyer

OLIVER WALLACE SCHOOL LIBRARY ENDOWMENT

IN MEMORY OF
Billy Cody
Eric & Vicki Freeman
Deborah McCart
Vicki Freeman
Tim & Melissa Wallace
Linda (Moers) Smith
Rick & Donna Carrico
Andy Esparza Family
John & Jane Schuetter & Family
Matt & Jenni Bishop
Walter & Janet Trautvetter
Margie Orman
Bill, Diane, Max & Quinn Layman
Don & Connie Coomes
James & Bridget Pfaffman
Ann Schneider
Joyce Cummings & Jill & Jerianna Bruce
Gary & Theresa Steckler
Karen, Matt, Zoe, Will Bippus
Kathryn Curtis
Paul & Irene Muensterman
Phil & Becky Dosher
Pam Baumgart
Jerri & Beth Spaetti
Andy & Jessica Reckelhoff & family
Andy & Andrea Jarboe
Jerry & Cindy Happe
Steve & Debbie Scheller
Tom & Jennie Tekoppel
Vernie & Connie Gries
Sara & Alex Rogier
St. Joe Choir

IT'S LOTTERY TIME

THE 2027 ST. JOE MONTHLY LOTTERY TICKETS are now available. $1350 to be given away each month. Only 500 tickets will be sold. Look for an invitation in the mail for your opportunity to participate. Our lottery sellers will also be contacting those who have bought tickets from them in the past. Cost is $75.

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

THE 2027 MATER DEI/MEMORIAL TREASURE THE TRADITION LOTTERY TICKETS are also no available. Ticket are $100. Every month there are four prizes totaling $13,000 to be given away. Need a ticket? Contact Margie Hartman 812-453-6826 or contact our Parish office (812-963-3273.

PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL WITH FAMILIES

This past October, on the tenth anniversary of Pope Francis's letter *On The Joy Of the Gospel*, Pope Leo met with the Presidents of Bishops' Conferences throughout the world and other religious leaders as well as married couples to reflect together on the status of this document.

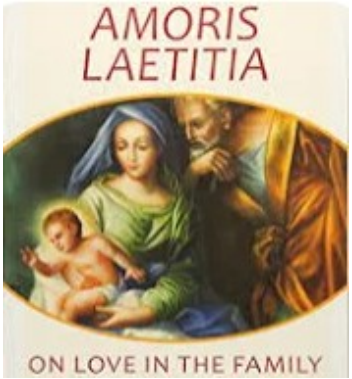
Pope Leo addresses gathering of leaders at the Vatican

I wished to convene this meeting ten years after the publication of *Amoris Laetitia*, and I thank you for arranging your commitments so that we could spend these days together. I warmly thank the married couples and all those who have come to share something of their lives in Christ and who will take part in our conversations, as well as the experts and facilitators.

Allow me to begin by recalling the long and fruitful synodal and missionary journey that the Church has made in relation to marriage and the family, a journey that we are called to continue. The family has always held an important place in the pastoral concern of the Successor of Peter and of the Bishops who assist him through their participation in the Synod of Bishops. The Synod of 1980 took up a desire already expressed by Pope John Paul I during his brief pontificate, eventually leading to Saint John Paul II's Apostolic Exhortation *Familiaris Consortio*.

At the beginning of his own pontificate, Pope Francis once again placed the family at the heart of a synodal process, recognizing the need to continue the Church's discernment in the face of profound changes affecting an area so closely linked to her mission in the world today. That journey led, ten years ago, to the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*.

In this regard, the Church has continued along the path indicated by the Second Vatican Council. When the Fathers of the Council placed the dignity of marriage and the family at the beginning of the second part of *Gaudium et Spes*, they recognized that family life offers a privileged point of entry into the great cultural, economic, social and political questions of our time, including the work of promoting peace among peoples. The interdependence of these questions has become even more evident today, always under the light of God's word: "'God made them male and female.' For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife" (*Mk* 10:6-7). The family remains key to an approach that holds together the local and the global, guided by the search for a universal fraternity in Christ that the Gospel calls us to build with everyone. This history of more than half a century places upon our meeting a particular responsibility as Shepherds, as the synodal vocation of the whole Church continues to unfold.



Within this history, *Amoris Laetitia* marked an important stage, and the ten years since its publication have become part of the life of our particular Churches. During this time, the Apostolic Exhortation has been received in different cultures and pastoral contexts, accompanied the concrete lives of families and inspired initiatives and processes. These are the ten years we now bring together before the Lord Jesus. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, looking attentively at what has happened can help us recognize more deeply what Christ has been teaching his Church through these years.

The Acts of the Apostles offer us a beautiful image for what we are about to do. At the end of their missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas gathered the Church together and "related all that God had done with them" (*Acts* 14:27). Later, as they made their way to Jerusalem, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria recounting what had happened in the mission, and their account brought great joy to the brothers and sisters. When they reached Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the Church, the Apostles and the elders, and once again "reported all

(Continued on page 5)

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 21 -- DECEMBER 13, 2026

DATE	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTORS
Saturday November 21, 2026 5 PM	Mary Loehrlein Sis & Katie Jarboe Carolyn Hutchinson	Susie Schapker
Sunday November 22, 2026 8 AM	Bryan and Ann Craney Marcia Frey Terry Drone	Jalane Weber
Sunday November 22, 2026 10:30 AM	Doris Taylor Austin Frey Cecelia Koch Kitty Deig	Chad Martin
Saturday November 28, 2026 5 PM	Donald Werner, Diane Woods Mary Kay Fehrenbacher Donna Niemeier	Sis Jarboe
Sunday November 29, 20265 8 AM	Rodney and Paula Baehl Lisa Cook Darlene Appler	Chick Duncan
Sunday November 29, 2026 10:30 AM	Paul Hillenbrand Jena Wessel Debra Baumgart Rachael Schnaus	Shane Wessel
Saturday December 5, 2026 5 PM	Eric and Karen McDonald Butch and Linda Feulner	Jim Hermann
Sunday December 5, 2026 8 AM	Marcia Frey Stephanie Frey Kylie & Stephanie Frey	Tom Folz
Sunday December 6, 2026 10:30 AM	Becky Dosher Jane Scheller Debra Baumgart Al Debes	Steve Jung
Saturday December 12, 2026 5 PM	Diane Woods Eric Reffett Peter and Jodi Fehrenbacher	Toni Askins
Sunday December 13, 2026 8 AM	Jalane Weber Imogene Baehl Michael Elpers Chick Duncan	Tom Blythe
Sunday December 13, 2026 10:30 AM	Shane Wessel Diane Bassemier Danielle Welage Doris Taylor	Jane Scheller

(Continued from page 4)

that God had done with them" (15:4).

There is something of this movement in our own gathering. As I have said, the Church has spent these ten years receiving *Amoris Laetitia* and walking with families in very different circumstances. We too bring stories of what God has done among us. They are stories gathered along the path of mission: stories of conversion, of unexpected fruit, and of the relationships God has woven within families as our communities have sought to accompany them, together with the difficulties we have faced, the questions that have emerged, and what we have learned along the way. They give us confidence as we begin our work together. Let us place them before the Lord, share them with one another, seeking to recognize what God has been doing among us and where his Spirit is leading the Church today.

In my message of March 19th, on the tenth anniversary of *Amoris Laetitia*, I recalled that "there are, in fact, places and circumstances in which the Church 'can become the salt of the earth' only through the lay faithful and, in particular, through families." Indeed, *Amoris Laetitia* invites us to take seriously this vocation and responsibility. Families themselves participate in the Church's mission in the ordinary fabric of their lives, through love and fidelity, care and forgiveness, the education of children, their efforts in transmitting faith, attention to the elderly and the vulnerable, and the many ways in which they serve their communities and society. In all these ways, families bear witness to the Gospel and contribute to the life and the mission of the Church.

As Pastors, we have received the responsibility, in season and out of season, of proclaiming the beauty of God's plan for marriage and the family and his call for love and tenderness. This challenges us to accompany people as they seek to live their vocation in the concrete circumstances of their lives.

This ministry also places us in a school of listening. The wisdom of the People of God reaches us through our common faith, which enlightens all families, including situations marked by difficulties, loneliness and at times even apparent failure. The Lord himself patiently teaches us when we take the time to listen, and we certainly have much to learn from families.

Their lives also place before us questions that deserve to be faced with courage. In many contexts, a growing distance has emerged between the ways in which sex and intimacy are lived and the Christian vision of marriage. Young people continue to long for love, fidelity and belonging, yet many find it difficult to embrace how such a vision of love can take shape in their own lives or to believe that a lifelong commitment is the condition for reaching what they desire. Economic insecurity, migration, violence, loneliness and other forms of emotional fragility also shape the choices people make and the possibilities they can imagine for their future.

These realities raise a number of questions that we must face with courage. What are people truly seeking beneath these cultural changes? What do their joys and hopes, grief's and anxieties reveal to us? Where do our pastoral language and practices succeed in opening a path, and where do they fail to touch people's hearts or assist their efforts to do what is good? What is the lived experience of families teaching us — an experience from which we have not yet fully learned? What can we offer as formation for healthy and holy family life? In particular, what can we learn from parents as they seek to accompany their children and young people in such contexts?

Fragility deserves special attention, for it can profoundly shape the way people see themselves, their future, and even their relationship with God and with the Church. The experience of fragility raises the question of whether we are able to remain close to one another when life no longer corresponds to what had been hoped for, and whether we can recognize the work of grace even in situations marked by limits, wounds and apparent failure.

In this respect too, the experience of families has something to teach everyone, since fragility belongs to our common human condition and therefore also to the life of the Church. We all know the gap between the good we desire and what we are able to live. We need grace, forgiveness and new beginnings to accomplish God's will, and we learn that fidelity is itself a grace to be received and a path to be gradually renewed, often through trial. Recognizing this shared challenge should shape the way we accompany one another in the Church. What kind of Church, then, do people encounter precisely when they are most fragile? Do our communities help them discover that they still have a place, a responsibility and gifts to offer? Can the truth we proclaim be encountered through the patience, closeness and mercy of our pastoral presence? How can we announce to them the fullness of the Gospel's teaching about the family?

During these days, I invite you to give such questions their full weight. The Holy Spirit often speaks through the very situations that challenge us, and enlightens us that we may discover how God's mercy and the salvific grace of Christ can reach our families today, particularly in their weakness and resilience, in their hopes and disappointments, in their longing for communion and their search for meaning. Our task, therefore, is not only to interpret these realities but to let them question us and motivate our pastoral responsibility, so that the Church may

Pope Leo XIV talks at a table with prelates and laypeople Oct. 7, 2026, after he opened the weeklong Vatican meeting of presidents of bishops' conferences marking the 10th anniversary of "Amoris Laetitia"

find renewed ways of proclaiming the Gospel, offering sacramental graces, accompanying families, and making visible the tenderness with which Christ continues to walk among his people.

May our dialogue with one another be marked by the evangelical freedom we see in the Acts of the Apostles. We can

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5) POPE LEO REFLECTIONS ON THE JOY OF LOVING (cont.)

share what has brought joy in our Churches, what has challenged us and what questions have emerged more clearly through experience. Moreover, the diversity of the situations from which we come can become a gift for the discernment of

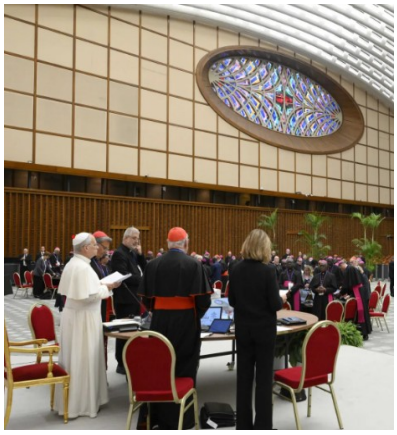
Our task, therefore, is not only to interpret these realities but to let them question us so that we may find renewed ways of proclaiming the Gospel

the whole Church.

The Thematic Framework prepared for this meeting is meant to keep the breadth of *Amoris Laetitia* before us and to bring the Apostolic Exhortation into conversation with what our Churches have experienced during these past ten years. Let us draw inspiration from the richness of Christ's word and the Church's tradition. The program has been made public so that the People of God may accompany our work through prayer and synodal reflection.

For our part, listening to one another, allowing what we hear to resonate within us, and remaining attentive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit can awaken the pastoral creativity we need in the face of new questions.

This is why our common retreat this evening, and the prayer with which we will begin each day, are at the heart of our work. I ask the Lord to help us gather together the fruits that *Amoris Laetitia* has borne in our local Churches, so that they may nourish the whole Church.



Pope Leo XIV leads a prayer Oct. 7, 2026, as he opens the weeklong Vatican meeting of presidents of bishops' conferences marking the 10th anniversary of "Amoris Laetitia"

I hope that, through the many stories you bring from your Churches and from different cultural contexts, a shared narrative of these ten years may gradually take shape, one marked by joy and hope, and that will enable us to face honestly the trials and difficulties that remain. This will nourish the pastoral discernment of the Episcopal Conferences and the hierarchical structures of the Eastern Churches. It will likewise help the local Churches recognize new paths, and draw all the baptized more deeply into the Church's synodal journey. I would also ask that we all preserve the discretion and confidentiality that this time of listening and discernment requires.

May the Lord give us the freedom to listen to one another, the wisdom to recognize his work among his people, and the courage to follow where he leads us, so that, each day, the Gospel may become ever more fully good news for families throughout the world. Thank you.

REMEMBER SCRIP WHEN DOING YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING
PURCHASE SCRIP THROUGH OUR SCHOOL OFFICE 812-963-3335

MATER DEI HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Students in 5th-11th grade and their families are invited to Mater Dei's annual Open House on **Thursday, November 5th at Mater Dei High School**. Drop by anytime between **6-8 pm** to tour the campus, talk with teachers, current students, coaches and staff. Learn about our vast college and career-readiness opportunities. Explore our extensive extracurricular offerings. Learn more about our extensive tuition assistance program.

To RSVP and skip the registration line, scan the code or visit materdeiwildcats.com. Contact Jill Seiler at jseiler@evdio.org for more info. See you there!

Applications are now available for parents wishing to apply for Mater Dei High School Tuition assistance for the 2027-2028 school year. Applications are available online at www.materdeiwildcats.com; select "Enrollment", then "Tuition and Financial Assistance." Hard copies will be available at Mater Dei and at our school and parish office. Questions? Please contact Jill Seiler at Mater Dei (812-426-2258 ext. 322) or email jseiler@evdio.org. There is one common application available for *Tax Credit Scholarships (SGO's) School Choice Vouchers, and (CEF) tuition assistance.*

(Continued from page 1) THE JOY OF LOVING IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY (con.t)

Aside from the fact that literally thousands of dollars are spent on wedding ceremonies and receptions, weddings often become the "bride's day" with the groom being relegated to doing what he is told. And many grooms willingly assent to such an arrangement — "if she is happy, then I am happy."

In many ways, I think these reflect a sense of individualism that pervades our country. We believe we have the right to do what we want to do, when we want to do it. In this context, it is hard for people to think in terms of marriage and family being a part of the common good of society. The folks meeting in Rome made this statement much stronger saying that "the world has no future without strong families."

This sense of individualism affects our sense of who God is and what being Catholic is all about. We tend to see this relationship as "me and God" and rarely think of how our lives might effect others. The unspoken assumption is that what I do is my business and no one else's business. That is the lens we view things, so it is not surprising that this lens is how we view weddings, marriages and family.

But, we call marriage a sacrament. A very old definition of sacraments is that they are "signs that give grace." Signs for whom? Grace for whom? Most often people see this in individual terms—it is a sign for me and it gives me grace. What we miss out on is the fact that married couples give life to others. When we see their willingness to be in relationship with each other and to do the hard work that this often entails, they are giving life to all of us. My bet is that most married couples do not believe that their marriage relationship has little effect or influence on others. .

Despite the failure of so many marriages, people still seek a partner to journey with in life. Why is this? I think it is because that desire is hard wired in our souls. This desire that is deep within all of us is another way of talking about the very nature of

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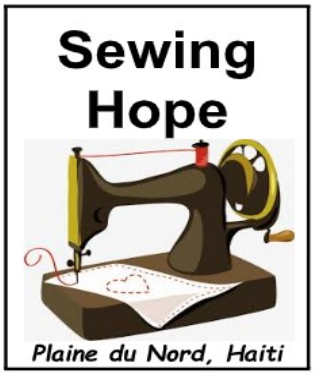
HAITI MISSION UPDATE



SEWING HOPE PROGRAM

We had a small class of six ladies graduate earlier this month on August 7. It was a lovely celebration. Each year they assign a name to the "promotion", honoring someone who has impacted them or supported the program. This year, they honored Karla DeWeese. She has been a dedicated member of the St. Joe Haiti ministry for many years and is part of the Sewing Hope support team.

We had several challenges this past school year. It was the first time we had to source all supplies and fabrics from Haiti and this proved to be much more expensive than prior years. Although this should not be a surprise, it took much longer to get the needed items – particularly if they had to be ordered. Delays in getting supplies caused frustration for both staff and students.

We also hired a new Coordinator just before classes began last year. We had a bit of a "learning curve" in defining expectations and job responsibilities. And then there was the challenge of aging equipment in the classroom. Several machines could not be repaired adequately, resulting in a shortage of available machines throughout the year. We did purchase two machines mid-year, but then it took well over two months for them to be delivered.

A huge thank you to Greg Head who visited Haiti this past spring. He was able to take many supplies for Sewing Hope for the next school year and also conducted meetings with Pascal (our Instructor), Edolphe (our Coordinator), and myself (via phone). We were able to work through various issues, had great discussions, and we look forward to a smoother year to come.

Since most supplies were purchased here and taken by Greg, the main item they still need to purchase in Haiti will be fabric. Also, thanks to a generous donation at the beginning of 2026, we have ordered four new treadle machines for the classroom. We hope to take one or two electric machines down this fall as well. It is important for students to learn on treadle machines since that will most likely be what they use after graduation, but having a few electric machines for second year students makes class work easier when everyone has a machine to use.

Graduates model the tailored suit-dresses they each made for the occasion

We started this past school year with fifteen first year students and nine second year students. We always lose a few students along the way for various reasons -- relocation, difficulty affording transportation, medical reasons, not a good match for the program and so on. Nine of the starting fifteen students finished their first year and six of the starting nine second year students graduated. Even if they complete their first year, not all students have the necessary skills to go on to the second year of the program. Pascal determines if they can move forward in the program, repeat their first year (under special circumstances) or if they should be removed from the program. Not easy decisions, but necessary for the program and for the students.

Graduating Class from this past spring

We anticipate fifteen first year students and seven to nine returning as second year students for the 2026-27 school year. The new school year will begin in early October. Pascal and Edolphe are in the process of taking applications and interviewing potential students.

You have all been incredibly supportive of Sewing Hope over the past six years. Due to the increased cost of supplies in Haiti, the Haiti Outreach team approved an increase of $60 in the annual sponsorship – $30 per month or $360 per year – less than $1 a day! HOWEVER, if you are willing to continue sponsoring a student and cannot pay the additional $60, we will gladly accept the lower amount. We were reluctant to increase the amount but felt it necessary as costs keep increasing everywhere.

At graduation in early August, Molienne Pierre was recognized from the graduating class for her outstanding attendance, grades, design knowledge and execution. She finished at the top of the class and was awarded a sewing machine for this accomplishment. Following is a message from Molienne.

On this special day of my graduation, I would like to express my sincere thanks to you. My heart is filled with joy and gratitude for everything you have done for me. Thank you for your patience, your advice, your encouragement, and your dedication. Through your guidance, I have learned not only sewing, but also important values such as discipline, perseverance, and self -confidence. May God continue to bless you, give you good health, strength, and success in everything you do.

Molienne Pierre stands next to the sewing machine she earned in recognition of her hard work over the two years.

While Greg was there, the graduates all came to campus both to see Greg and to have a quick video call with me. They are so appreciative of having this opportunity. It would not be possible without you! Trade schools play an important role in the lives of the young people of Haiti. Education is expensive and even with a university degree (if they can afford it), there are very few available jobs. By learning a trade, however, they can immediately use the learned skills to support their families.

HAITI STUDENT SPONSORSHIPS

Thanks to everyone's support at our Caribbean Night Fundraiser last spring we were able to raise enough funds to move forward with some major repairs to the school. Fixing: The first phase is to remove the existing metal roof and pour a new ele-

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

HAITI MISSION UPDATE (con.t)

vated concrete slab which will serve as the roof for now, but will eventually be the second floor. We did raise enough money to go ahead and construct four classrooms, one office and one storage room. We will continue to work on raising funds to build six additional classrooms in the future. Funds have been sent to start the project. Father Dubois and team are still in the pre-planning, with the intent to start removing the existing roof very soon. Stay tuned for monthly updates.

Primary and secondary student sponsors have received an invitation to continue their support for the students they have sponsored in the past. We have received several payments already, but still have several to go. We received word this week that all students in grade nine passed the national exam and will be moving on to grade ten. This is great news. Your gift of providing an education for these students is such an amazing gift. You are truly making a difference in the lives of these children.

In regards to the students who are attending University and Trade School, several of these schools just finished up the 2025-2026 year. However, their next year will start soon. With students going to several different Universities and Trade schools that are not all on the same schedule creates some added challenges to the time line. We are always looking to add more sponsors to the program.

MEDICAL CLINIC UPGRADES

We are currently working with Father Dubois and Julenord to finalize funding for a new roof on the medical clinic, with hopes of the new roof being installed yet this year.

HAITI FOOD PROGRAM

It is our goal to be able to continue providing funds to feed all 860 students and staff at St. Jacques lunch each day. This is a huge undertaking, but we truly believe kids can learn better when they are not hungry. We have had some incredible support from donors and we want to thank you all! This has enabled us to provide funds to secure food for the first half of this coming school year . Now we begin the work of securing the funds to provide lunch for the rest of the year.

Their meals are pretty simple—rice and beans, with maybe some dried peas and perhaps some fish. The menu doesn't change much from day to day but for so many of the children, it is the only meal they will eat.

This effort to provide one meal a day gets even more complicated when you factor n the difficulty of finding the food and then getting it transported to Plane du Nord and then keeping it in a safe place. Fortunately, Fr. Dubois, the Pastor at St. James, has been able to find a source for food and has a secure place to store it.

Even this simple meal costs money—about $.45 per meal. But even this can get to be expensive when you are trying to provide food for 860 kids and staff for each day of school. It costs about $387 per day to feed all 860 kids and staff in school. That is $1,935 for each week that school is in session or about $70,000 to fund a food program for the entire school year.

This Christmas we will again offer people an opportunity to honor someone at Christmas and help our children get a meal to eat during the school year. Look for the self-service station which will be located in church this month and continue through December. Here you will find gift cards ranging in price from $5-100.

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

MISSION TRIP OPPURTUNITY

And finally, if you are feeling a tug at your heartstrings to travel to Haiti and see what it's all about, please reach out to me or someone on the St. Joe Outreach team. We would love to have new travelers join our teams. There is a small group going in November and several others have expressed an interest in going on a trip next spring. The best way to grow this ministry is for new people to build relationships with our brothers and sisters in Haiti. If you have felt the calling to go on a mission trip, please reach out to us.

VETERANS DAY-- A TIME TO REMEMBER, GIVE THANKS AND TO PRAY FOR PEACE

Below is a list of all the people from our parish who have, at one time or another, served in the armed forces. We give thanks for their willingness to serve and be a part of something bigger than their lives.

Ron Angermeier
Randy Appler
Bob Baehl
Rodney Baehl
Bob Beshears
Tim Bishop
David Conaway
Jim Butler
Mike Collins
Al Debes
Eric Douglas
Bob Duncan
Chick Duncan
Dave Duncan
Michelle Duncan
Rick Elpers
Jim Fechtmeister
Dick Fehrenbacher
Jack Fleeger
Tom Folz
Mike Forcum
Scott Gaiser
Cyril Gerteisen
Fred Gries
Larry Gries
Fred Happe
Larry Happe
Jude Hays

Josh Henderson
Jim Hermann
Frank Hertel
Don Hutchinson
Bud Jarboe
John King
Will Kirk
Scotty Kirk
Ray Kissel
Danny Knight
Bill Layman
Jon Locklar
Corey Loehr
John Luigs
John Manger
John Maurer
Joe Mayer
Robby Mossberger
Paul Ondash
Jesse Quinlin
Jim Scheller
Tony Scheller
Dave Schlichting
Cale Schnaus
Dennis Schneider
Chip Schwartz
Dave Seib

Bob Singer
Tony Tenhumberg
Sam Thompson
Richard Warren
Amanda Warren
Don Weis
Nathan Werner
Vince Werner
Allen Whitehouse
Jordan Wilkinson
Steve Willis
Gary Wunderlich

REMEMBERING THOSE ON ACTIVE DUTY

Gretchen Forcum
Evan Collins
Katie Duncan
Daniel Werner
Zoe Schell
Chase Gerteisen
Troy Gerteisen
Isaac Nicholson

MISSION OUTREACH

Be an island of mercy in a sea of indifference.

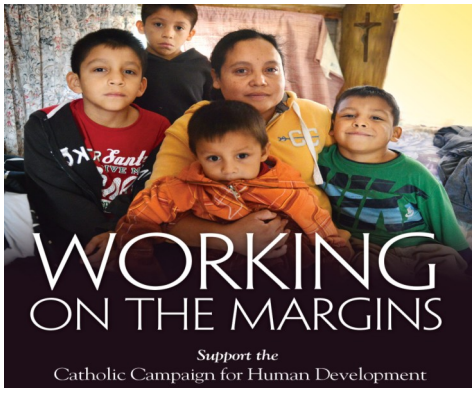
Pope Leo

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

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Our special collection this month supports the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Currently 38 million people in the United States live in poverty. This collection funds programs that empower local communities to address the challenges they face. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development supports those living in poverty across the country. It identifies and addresses the unique obstacles people face as they work to lift themselves out of poverty. In addition, 25% of the funds we collect remain in our diocese to fund local anti-poverty projects. By supporting this collection, you are giving those on the margins a hand up, not a handout. Please be generous.



Thanks to all the people who came forward to donate blood on October 25. Thanks as well to Imogene Baehl and the other members of her crew for taking care of all the details for the blood drive. Your gift of time helps save lives!

JENNIE PUCKETT HONORED WITH GOLDEN HOOISER AWARD

Congratulations to Jennie Puckett, SWIRCA (Southwest Indiana Regional Council on Aging) & More's Golden Hoosier Award winner (the highest award bestowed upon a volunteer in the state of Indiana)! Jennie's heart for helping others shines through her volunteerism not only at SWIRCA but throughout the community. Her kindness, compassion, and dedication make a meaningful difference in the lives of so many! Please join us in congratulating Jennie on the very well-deserved honor!

We continue to accept donations for the St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry each weekend....just a jar of peanut butter, a bag of beans or a box of oatmeal or cereal....that's all.

Thanks...for a job well done!

One group of faithful workers in our parish is our faithful mowing crews. Not only do their efforts save us thousands of dollars in labor costs, but also their efforts keep our parish campus looking beautiful. So now we take this time to extend a big thanks to them. We owe a special note of thanks to Jerry Happe for servicing all the mowers, trimmers, and leaf blowers! That work involved countless hours each week making sure that when our mowing crews came to work, their equipment was always ready for them to use.

Dan & Mary Ruth Lasher
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Cale Schnaus
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Ted Zirkelbach
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Don & Carolyn Hutchison
Neal Dossett
Eugene Schmitt
Mike & Michelle Reffett
Rich Harpenau
Nathan Dosher
Randy Tenbarge
Steve Muensterman
Becky Heidorn
Brad Ruminer
Rob & Dana Grasso
Blake Wilderman
Paul Stewart
Josh Elfreich
Larry Elfreich
Joey Arnold
Roger Hall
Gene Schmitt
Don Weis
Morgan Jones
Dan Voelker
Mike Ennis
Jude Hays
Mike Wiley
Jim & Jane Scheller
Randy Fehrenbacher

Did we miss anyone? Let us know. Thanks!

LET'S GO HOG WILD FOR THE HOMELESS

In conjunction with the Men's Club Sausage sale this month, we'd like to provide sausage to the homeless shelters in Evansville and to the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry. **We'll have a special collection after the Masses on the weekend of October 31 and November 1.** You may also send your financial contributions to the parish office.

November 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8 -10:30 Mass Coffee & Donuts 9 am Family Religion Class & RCIA 9 am 1st Communion Rite of Enrollment 10:30 Food Pantry Collection Last Day to Order Sausage	2 Boot Camp 5AM Eucharistic Adoration 7am-7pm 6:30 Mass	3 7:30 am Mass Becoming Catholic 6:30pm	4 Boot camp 5:00 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff 12-2 pm That Man Is You 5:30 pm Foundations of Faith 6:45 pm	5 NO MASS Mater Dei Open house 6-8 pm Chicken Dinner Benefit for Bill Cody Drive Thru Pickup 5-7 pm	6 Boot Camp 5 AM 7:30 am MASS Men's Club Making Sausage 1-6 pm Communion to the Homebound	7 Sausage Sale Pick Up 7-10 Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 PM 5 pm Mass Haiti & Food Pantry Collection
8 8 & 10:30 Mass Food Pantry Collection Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30	9 Boot Camp 5 am Eucharistic Adoration 7am-7pm 6:30 Mass Knights of St. John Meeting 7 pm	10 Mass 7:30 am Becoming Catholic 6:30pm School Program Day of Prayer for Vocations Tuesday 6 am Wednesday 6 am	11 Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 am MASS Parish Staff That Man Is You 5:30 Foundations of Faith 6:45 pm	12 NO MASS Altar Society Meeting 6:30 PM	13 Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 AM MASS Communion to the Homebound Senior Citizens Gathering 1 pm	14 Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 PM Mass 5 pm Food Pantry Collection
15 8 & 10:30 Mass Food Pantry Collection Family class and Children's Liturgy 10:30 Campaing for Human Development Collection	16 Boot Camp 5 am Eucharistic Adoration 7am-7pm 6:30 Mass School Board Meeting 6 pm Men's Club Meeting 7 pm	17 7:30 am Mass First Reconciliation Service 6 pm Becoming Catholic 6:30pm	18 Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff Meeting Noon That Man Is You 5:30 Foundations of Faith 6:45 pm	19 NO MASS PTO 6:00 pm Haiti Ministry Committee Meeting 6:30 pm	20 Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 AM MASS Communion to the Homebound	21 Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 PM Mass 5 pm Food Pantry Collection
22 8 & 10:30 Mass Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30 Food Pantry Collection	23 Boot Camp 5 am Eucharistic Adoration 7am-7pm 6:30 Mass	24 7:30 am Mass SCHOOL BREAK NOV. 23-DEC. 30	25 Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 am MASS That Man Is You 5:30 Foundations of Faith 6:45 pm	26 8:00 am Thanksgiving Day Mass	27 NO MASS Communion to the Homebound	28 Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 PM Mass 5 pm Haiti & Food Pantry Collection MARY MOTHER OF GOD MSSION COLECTION
29 8 & 10:30 Mass Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30 Food Pantry Collection MARY MOTHER OF GOD MISSION COLLECTION	30 Boot Camp 5 am Eucharistic Adoration 7am-7pm 6:30 Mass	1 7:30 AM Mass	2 Boot Camp5 am 7:30 am MASS Parish Staff Noon	3 NO MASS	4	5 Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 PM Mass 5 pm Food Pantry Collection

Sunday, November 1 9 am Coffee Juice & Breakfast Treats

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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
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(Continued from page 6) **THE JOY OF LOVING IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY (con.t)**

God. God is always inviting us to make our world bigger. And when we respond to this desire we find that making room in our lives for another gives more meaning to our lives. In the best of times, when couples who journey together as husband and wife, they cannot imagine life without their partner.

God teaches us that love must always be outgoing and open to others. In marriage we believe that this call to be outgoing is best reflected in the openness to bringing new life into the world. That is why the challenge for married couples is "how shall we be open to sharing our life with the world." Beyond this, married couples are challenged to be good stewards of the great gift they have of bringing new life into the world through children.

Much was said from the people gathered at this special synod about the need for couples to be adequately prepared for marriage. But it has been my experience that couples come to church only after they have decided to get married. At this point they have already made an emotional commitment to the marriage and it is hard for them to reflect on what marriage is and do they really understand what they are about to enter into. So much of this is understandable. After all, what did I understand about being a priest when I was ordained? If you asked me at the time, I would have told you that I knew what I was doing and was freely choosing to do it. But no, having been around the block a few times, I find more truth in the saying, "if I knew then what I know now."

I think we have to allow for young couples to grow in maturity through the years. At the same time, we live in such a superficial world that it is challenging for young folks to reflect deeply upon what being married is all about. The fact that fewer people are even getting married in the church means that more often than not, any kind of marriage preparation is non existent.

MARRIAGE: A SIGN INSTITUED BY GOD THAT GIVES LIFE

And yet, still we are called to the ideal of marriage and family. What happens when we don't achieve this? We have to remember that our God is always a God of compassion and mercy. So how do we hold these two ideals? Pope Francis, in *Amoris Laetitius* emphasized the mercy of God. That did not please many in the church who believe that Pope Francis was only causing confusion by his emphasis on mercy. Pope Leo seems to following in the footsteps of Pope Francis, especially in his call to walk with married couple and families in the midst of the messiness of their lives. He spoke these words to those gathered at this special synod *"What kind of church…do people encounter precisely when they are most fragile? Do our communities help them discover that they still have a place, a responsibility and gifts to offer?"*

So once again, we are invited to uphold the ideal of marriage and family and, at the same time, walk with people in the midst of the brokenness and frailties of their lives.