



THE CARPENTER

ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

VANDERBURGH COUNTY EVANSVILLE, INDIANA ESTABLISHED IN 1841

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OCTOBER, 2025



OPENING THE ANCIENT CHRISTIAN STORY IN A FRESH NEW WAY

Fr. Gene Schroeder
PASTOR

Last month we began reflecting on the four gospels in the Bible, why these particular gospels were written and why we read them in a particular order at Mass. What we learned was that the early Christians who were already baptized were looking for some answers to the question—once you are baptized, just how do you live out the call to be a disciple.

What we discovered was that the early Christians were tapping into some very ancient wisdom about just how a person goes through the process of being transformed. That transformation revolved around four different questions: How do we face change in life? How do we grow through suffering? How do we receive joy into our lives? and How do we mature in service?

All of us, if we want to become a follower of Jesus, or put another way, if we really want to be Catholic, will have to answer these four questions as some point in our life, and more likely will have to answer them many times over.

At some point in our lives we will encounter something that shakes our world at its foundation. Sometimes it is a sudden diagnosis of cancer, or the loss of dear friend, or the loss of a job. All that we know is shaken to the core. Yet this is not an end but an invitation to a new journey, beyond the familiar to a deeper way of being. Like a mountain trail, this path requires great exertion and we can only see a step ahead. Do we have the courage to climb, one step at a time?

The second path, moving through suffering—is by far the most difficult. We are betwixt and between. Yesterday's reality is gone, the new has not yet come. Our uncertainty can be terrifying. As in winter, we are not able to see the growth deep at work in the ground, and all seems lifeless. We feel fragile and alone, and perhaps find ourselves slipping into despair. Is help coming?

The third path takes us by surprise. Like springtime, a bright fresh reality appears suddenly all around us. Awake to a sense of communion with all, we discover that joy arrives from somewhere beyond ourselves. We perceive everything as a gift.

(Continued on page 7)



CREATING AN AWARENESS FOR RECYCLING

GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

GOOD FOR OUR FINANCIAL HEALTH

GOOD FOR OUR SOULS

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. You have seen those words often in our monthly newsletters. We've worked hard at creating a climate for recycling here in our parish. Not only is this good for our environment, it is also good for the financial bottom line, as well as being good stewards of the earth. And at its core, creating this consciousness is also central to what being a Catholic is all about.

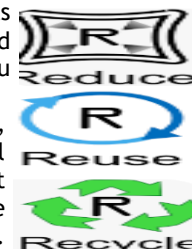
Reduce, reuse and recycle all begin with awareness. Remember Jesus' words "when I was hungry you gave me something to eat, when I was a stranger you welcomed me. The people responded, "if we knew it was you we would surely have given you something to eat." The problem is that we just didn't notice.

How do we develop an ability to notice? Pretty simple—look around, pay attention, what do you see? Creating awareness begins with simple things. Do I notice a light being left on, air conditioning running unnecessarily, trash that is lying on the floor or in the parking lot? And once I notice, what do I do about it?

Consider this. Last year we spent \$71,054 for our utility bills for the rectory, church and school. Of this amount, \$52,587.30 was spent on keeping the lights on in school and the place heated and cooled. That's a lot of money, anyway you look at it.

And yet, at the end of any given day, you could probably walk through our school and find lights on, the air conditioning not turned off, and trash lying around. First we notice and then we do something about it. That means that when we finish using the gym or cafeteria or meeting room, we need to make sure all the lights are turned off, especially those in the bathrooms, and the air conditioning is turned off, and all the doors are shut. Doing these simple things will go a long way in helping us keep our utility costs down.

Want to notice more things? Look at the things you throw away in your trash? It has been estimated that 75% of the stuff that we throw in the trash can be recycled. What would happen if we developed a consciousness for recycling? Have



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HAVE YOU MADE YOUR PLEDGE TO THE CATHOLIC MINISTRIES (CPC)?
PARISH GOAL \$131,040.00
PLEDGED TO DATE \$ 22,325.00 17%
NUMBER OF PLEDGES 23 4%
Now, more than ever, your help is needed if we are to meet our parish obligation.

THANK YOU

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

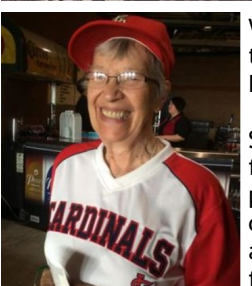


REMEMBERING Dolores Schroeder

December 27, 1932 - August 12, 2025
*She had a smile that was infectious.
There was a sense of peace about her
that helped you believe everything
would be alright.*



Dolores Weinzapfel was born on December 27, the oldest child of Alphons and Elma (Bassemier). At the time the family lived in Anderson, Indiana where her dad found work with the phone company. Those were difficult economic times and the family soon moved back to live on the small farm where Alphons grew up near the intersection of Allen's Lane and Harmony Way. Dolores was there to welcome her two brothers, Al and Tom and her sister Rosemary.



Dolores attended St. Boniface Grade School and then went on to graduate from Mater Dei High School in 1950, a proud member of the first graduating class at Mater Dei. They started classes at the old Holy Trinity School before finishing at the newly built school. She joined other students in actually helping to build the school and then clean it and get it ready to be occupied.

Dolores was a smart woman and had some great leadership abilities. At the time, there were not that many opportunities for women to take leadership roles in companies. But Dolores would use her skills in training and managing people beginning with her work at Old National Bank and later at Reis's Catering where she helped train the servers for the catering jobs. Dolores also worked in the retail business first at Woolco, then Hills Department Store, and then at Venture. Indicative of her working habits, Dolores could be counted on to do whatever was necessary.

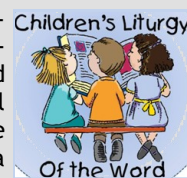
Dolores' life revolved around her family and her marriage to Bill Helfrich. He was a good looking guy who had a fast car! They knew each other from their years in high school. They were married in 1953. Bill began his career working at Whirlpool and Dolores devoted her considerable skills managing the family which, in time, included two daughters, Debbie and Donna, and three sons, Bill, Bob and Brian. In 1961, Dolores and Bill would move their family to the place where Bill grew up on Cynthia Road. That would be her home for the rest of her life.

It was a big job managing the family—five kids in a small house with one bathroom. There was always laundry to do and meals to be fixed. Dolores was remembered as a great cook. "Meat, potatoes and vegetables at every meal." She was famous for her pot roasts for Sunday dinner and her German Potato Salad. As one her children remember, Our mom was the best! She love us all unconditionally! She prayed for us, with us and over us! She spanked us when we needed it! Fought in our favor always! Always fed us wonderful meals on a shoestring budget! Basically, best mom in the world! And always had a smile that said "I love you!"

Dolores had such a big and welcoming heart that she be-

TWO GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Children's Liturgy of the Word has begun again! Children ages 4-grade 2 are invited to join in Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 10:30 am Mass! This is a wonderful opportunity for young children to hear the Gospel message at their level; coupled with a fun craft and prayer! Fr. Gene will call the



students up alongside a teacher before the Mass readings; Children's Liturgy will take place in the school cafeteria.

Also, you will notice in the cry room area; we have a new basket of children's books and "wiggle" toys for any young children to read and fidget with during Mass. Simply enjoy and put back in the basket for the next child.

came a second mom to many others. One of them commented "I refer to your mom as "Mom #2". She and your family have been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. Transporting me to 4-H and Jr. Leader events. Mater Dei events, ball games, rallies, pom-pom try outs and probably some church events that were outside of walking or biking distance from St Joe Church. She always had time for us and always wore a beautiful smile."

In time, Dolores were share her spirit of life with her grandchildren. She loved them all and they knew her affectionately as "Grandma Dee Dee."

Dolores had a generous heart for others. That was evident in the many ways she helped out with different school projects when her children were in school. If you came to our summer social you would find her feeding you food, either by helping to serve dinners in the cafeteria or by frying a hamburger for you. All done with a smile on her face. For many years, Dolores would proclaim the word to us at Mass as one of our Lectors. She and Marlene Hasselbrinck would visit many parishioners each week to bring them communion.

Her life was not without its challenges. In 1993, just as they were making plans to celebrate their fortieth wedding anniversary, her husband Bill died of a heart attack. Later, Dolores would marry Donald Schroeder in 1999 whom she had known since her high school days. Dolores would welcome him into her life and into her family. They were able to spend some happy years together until his death in 2022.

Dolores' big heart for others led her to cherish the many friends she had. Among those special groups were her classmates from her high school graduating class, her card playing group and especially the women of her Cursillo prayer group. All of them, and all of us in the parish, have forever been changed by her infectious smile and the joy and peace she brought. Her vibrant spirit was alive even in the last months of her life when her body began to fail. She was the anchor of her family and it was fitting that they were able to be with her in the last days of her life helping her to die well. We give thanks for the gift she has been to her family and to our parish.

COMING: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26th

ST. JOE MEN S CLUB'S FAMOUS

BURGOO

AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP

AT 7 AM CONTAINERS

PROVIDED \$20 / GALLON



Come join in the fun of making the burgoo. We need help on Saturday morning October 25h at 7 am

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We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions that 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.

Thank You

TO ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

FROM THE ESTATE OF

Charles & Joan Niemeier

Thr Family of Charles & Joan Niemeier

FROM THE ESTATE OF
Leroy & Rose Weiss

Thr Family of
Leroy & Rose Weiss

IN MEMORY OF

Dave Fehrenbacher

Gary Fehrenbacher
& Ruth Burk

Alan & Donna Blankenberger

Randy & Janice TenBarge

Phil & Becky Doshier

Butch & Linda Feulner

Evansville Athletic Club

Danny & Janice Schmitt

Leo & Donna Anslinger

Jim & Kim Riordan

Ray Schapker

Joan Stewart

Tom & Susan Pfender

Terry Drone

Gail Maurer

Karen Porter Family

John & Jane Luigs

Dan & Mary Ruth Lasher

Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Kiesel

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kiesel

Ron & Donna Miller

Jack & Middy Keller

George & Donna Keller

Jim Keller

Mark & Debbie

Fehrenbacher

Gerald Martin

Bob & Mary Kay

Fehrenbacher

Don & Carolyn Hutchison

Eric & Tresa Goebel

Jeff & Sara Sexton

Lorine, Laurie &

Mike Hammers

Darlene Keenan (Knapp)

Jane Mossberger
Bertha Michelini & Ron
Harry & Donna Lincoln
Vince Goedde

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Kissel

Rick & Clare Baylor

Janet Correa Family

Paul & Bonnie Hartmann

Kurt & Cheryl Schapker

Craig & Laura Elpers

Stanton & Shirley Elfreich

Jim & Carol Fechtmeister

Dan Zenthoefer

Nancy Lewinski

Don & Lynn Kiesel

Steve & Becky Muensterman

Randy & Kathy

Fehrenbacher

David Ellison

Tom Ritter

Ralph & Sherri Adler

Bertha Goedde

Schaefer Head

Jerry & Pat Anslinger

Steve & Ann Southwell

Tom & Becky Miller

Keith & Susan Bauer

Jerry & Karen Miller

Matt & Jenni Bishop

St. Joseph Men's Club

John & Cynthia Fehrenbacher

IN MEMORY OF

Sue Gries

Don & Alice Weis

IN MEMORY OF

Margaret Will

Carol & David Nurrenbern

Bob & Mary Kay

Fehrenbacher

Kevin Hartz Family

Kathy Funke

Ron & DeeDee Eickhoff

David & Nicolette Sammett

Diana Stolz

Joyce McDurmon

Anonymous

Jenna Will & Justin
Cinciripini

Chris & Patti Will

Rick Koressel

Daniel & Mary Ritter

Linda & Butch Feulner

Darlene Appler

Rick & Pauline Elpers

Al & Verena Will Family

Joe & Martha Koressel

Don & Judy Cox

Barbara Koressel

Schmahlenberger

Angie Koressel Lamkin

Kevin Koressel

Charlie Will

Larry & Ruth Lutz

OLIVER WALLACE

SCHOOL LIBRARY

ENDOWMENT

IN MEMORY OF

Rose Weiss

Jerry & Beth Spaetti

IN MEMORY OF

Dave Fehrenbacher

Jerry & Beth Spaetti

JEROME & ESTELLE

SCHNEIDER

HAITI ENDOWMENT

IN MEMORY OF

Jerome & Estelle

Schneider

John & Julie Talley

WILBUR & MARIAN

FEHRENBACHER

CEMETERY

ENDOWMENT

IN MEMORY OF

Dave Fehrenbacher

Terry & Julie

Fehrenbacher

Dick & Judy

Fehrenbacher

Mary and the Month of October



Please join us this month as we pray the rosary before each of our weekend Masses. We will begin praying the rosary twenty-five minutes before Mass.

Hail Mary, full of grace.
The Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among
women and blessed is
the fruit of your
womb, Jesus.



CANDY--GAMES--BEST TRUNK CONTEST

SUNDAY, OCT. 26

1-3 PM

JOIN US IN ST. JOE'S PARKING LOT
FOR AN AFTERNOON

FULL OF FUN!

TO REGISTER A TRUNK CALL HADLEY
KENDLE 812-430-4310 BY OCTOBER 20



--COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES--

Again this year, we have an opportunity to stay in touch with and support our college young adults by filling out a college care package with all the kinds of snacks that will keep them going during their final exams. Packages will be available for pick up the weekend of October 4th & 5th. Please fill up and return the care package by Sunday, October 18-19th. That will give us a chance to get them to our college students before their exams. Thanks!



**FAMILY POTLUCH
AND GAMES NIGHT
NOVEMBER 1, 2025**

Bring your favorite side dish and join in some fun games and bingo. Fun for the whole family.



POTLUCK DINNER

IT'S LOTTERY TIME

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



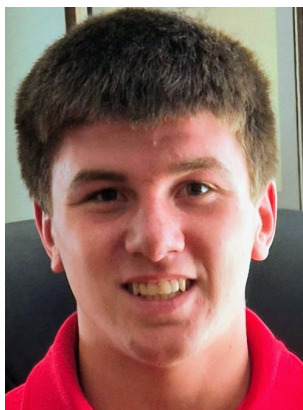
THE 2026 ST. JOE MONTHLY LOTTERY TICKETS are now available. \$1350 to be given away each month. Only 500 tickets will be sold. Look for an invitation in the mail in the coming weeks for your opportunity to participate. Our lottery sellers will also be contacting those who have bought tickets from them in the past. Cost is \$75.



THE 2026 MATER DEI/MEMORIAL TREASURE THE TRADITION LOTTERY TICKETS are also no available. Ticket are \$100. Every month there are four prizes totaling \$13,000 given away. Tickets can be purchased at the Mater Dei School Office (812-426-2258) or by contacting the parish office (812-963-3273).

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL INTRODUCING OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Grant Voelker



Grant is the son of Tim and Julianna (Greubel) Voelker and the younger brother of Lauren Voelker. He is a senior at Mater Dei High School. Quiet, serious, and determined might be some of the ways to describe Grant. But there is also a side of him that leads to easy friendships with others.

Grant is a serious student who has put much time and effort into his academic studies. When asked about some of the classes he has taken, he will tell you about a number of AP classes (Advanced Placement) he has taken over his years in high school from Psychology, to Calculus, to Environmental Studies, to Film, and Literature. He was inducted into the National Honor Society his junior year in high school and has done a number of volunteer service hours in the community as part of the National Honor Society. He has also enjoyed learning about his German heritage as part of the German Club and taking three years of German classes.

As important as academics have been for Grant, his time in high school has been more than just classes. For a few years he was a member of the baseball team where he played second base. But his primary focus as an athlete has been as a member of the wrestling team. He's been wrestling since grade school. This year he is focusing his efforts on wrestling by training at the Maurer-Coughlin Wrestling Club. Wrestling season starts in November and you'll find Grant competing in the 150 pound weight class.

Next year, Grant hopes to attend Purdue University and pursue a degree in construction management. He'll have some company at Purdue, as this is where his sister Lauren is going to school as well, pursuing a degree in nursing.

Grant started school here at St. Joe. Memories from grade school include doing a lot of things with classmates who have become good friends over the years. He had the chance to participate in a wide variety of activities from sports to academic extra circular endeavors. "I remember all the teachers I had. I remember especially the classes I had with Mrs. Tanner and Mrs. Daugherty. She taught math and prepared us well for high school. And, of course, there were the great school lunches we had. I don't know how they do it, but the lunches there were better than any other place I have been."

When asked about people who have been especially significant in his life, Grant talks about his high school wrestling coach, Mr. Greg Schaefer. "He's pretty serious about wrestling but he is always using that as a way to teach us lessons about life. Life does not always go the way you want it to go, and so much about being successful is how you deal with the difficulties in life."

It's no surprise that Grant sees his parents as being influential in his life. "Both of my parents have taught me about having a good work ethic in life. Being responsible and doing what you say you are going to do are two things that especially stand out. When I think about my mom, the word "helpful" comes to mind. I know she will always be there for me. My dad is pretty organized and hard working. Everything has a place. My dad also likes to cook and I've kind of learned some things just being around him when he does this."

Grant also talks about enjoying family time together boating at Patoka Lake and going to St. Louis Cardinals baseball games. Food is usually a big part of these events as well.

If you have been at our fish fries and our summer social chicken dinner you have probably seen Grant helping to transport the fish and chicken from the frying room to the cafeteria. "When I think about St. Joe Parish, what comes to mind is lots of people working together. I like being a part of that."

WORDS OF WISDOM: "What I have learned from wrestling is that you have to be willing to put work into things. That is not always easy. Some days you don't really want to go to practice but you do it anyway. And you learn that not everything is going to go the way you want it to or even hoped it would. You are not going to win every wrestling match but you can learn something from every match you are in. Determination and dedication are important qualities to have. I think learning how to be a man of your word is pretty important as well. That is what makes a good friend as well. Good friends are people you can count on and who will be with you, especially when things are not going well or you are not at your best. I really appreciate the friends I have. Sometimes the hardest thing is to enjoy the friends you have even though you may be moving on and going in different directions than they will. You appreciate them for the time you are with them and then you have to be open to new friends coming into your life."

Owen Messal

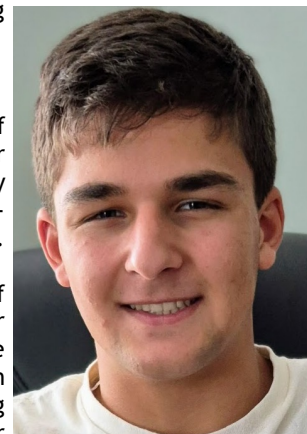
Owen is the youngest son of Mark and Kelly Messal, younger brother to Ethan and sister Indy Costlow and proud uncle to Scarlett, Logan, Cecelia and Sophia. He is a senior at Mater Dei.

For the first three years of high school, Owen was a member of the football team. This year he has chosen to focus his energy on being a member of the wrestling team which he has been a member of for his entire high school career. "Sports can teach you a lot of things—hard work, discipline, and cheering on your teammates. You spend a lot of time with them at practices and games so it's pretty natural that many of the friendships you form are with them. One thing you try to exhibit is being able to win with grace and lose with grace."

Last year the wrestling team did really well, placing fourth in state. This year Owen will compete in the 175 lb weight division. "Being part of the team means committing yourself to lots of practicing and being disciplined about watching your weight and learning how to eat things that are really healthy for you."

Owen has been committed to his academic studies as well. His dedication in this area led him to being named to the National Honor Society in his junior year. One of the things that members of the National Honor Society do is to commit to doing extra service hours. Owen has spent time working at the local Food Bank, sorting and packaging food for delivery to various organizations that serve the people in need.

When asked about interesting classes he has taken, Owen mentioned his Honor's Biology Class where he has been studying genetics. He also talked about his Environmental Science Class, AP Statistics and Film Literature Class. "I've had some good teachers both at Mater Dei and at St. Joe." Taking a



wide variety of classes has given him the opportunity to explore different possibilities for the future.

Owen attended grade school here at St. Joe. "It's small enough that you get to know everyone. Like a lot of fellow graduates, Owen talked about the great food they had for lunch. "I liked all the teachers, especially Sr. Bridget. She would get us all involved in gardening, which really piqued my interest. Something that might surprise people is that I really like gardening. I like planting different vegetables and seeing them grow and, of course, being able to eat them when they get ripe." Cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, habanera peppers are among the things he has grown. He's also dabbled in different fruits like wild blackberries. Owen was also able to put his love for gardening and all things related to plants by working with the folks at Kraft Nursery.

Next year, Owen plans on attending Purdue University. It's a bit of a family tradition since his dad went there to become a veterinarian. His older sister Indy graduated from Purdue as well and his brother Ethan is currently going to Purdue. "I'm not sure what kind of degree I will pursue," although right now he's thinking about field of agronomy where he can pursue his love of gardening.

Owen talks about his family as being the biggest influence in his life. "What I appreciate about my mom is that she is easy to talk to and gives me a sense that she really understands what I am going through. Both my mom and dad have talked about the importance of hard work and doing the best you can, especially with school work. I've had the chance to work with my dad doing lawn work at home and taking care of the lawn and other maintenance work at his Vet Clinic. I've also helped out at church by being a member of the same mowing crew with my dad.

Owen also mentions his sister, Indy, as being a big influence on him. She is pretty organized which you have to be if you have four young kids to raise. What I admire most about her is that she knows what she wants to do in life and then goes out and does it.

Owen also talks about the importance of family gatherings, especially for the holidays. "We usually get together with my mom's side of the family for Thanksgiving, which is always an opportunity for enjoying lots of food. The only problem is that it is in the middle of wrestling season and I'm always having to watch what I eat. I enjoy our Christmas gatherings as well, especially when our family gets together."

Growing up in St. Joseph Parish has also been an chance to experience community. You'll find Owen helping out at the Fish Fries and the Summer Social. "It seems like everybody knows one another and works hard at different projects."

WORDS OF WISDOM: "I've learned a lot of things from being involved in sports—learning how to support your teammates and being willing to do all the hard work at practice are two things that come to mind. Being a good friend means



CELEBRATING 4,503 YEARS OF MARRIAGE FAITHFULNESS

This month, throughout our diocese, we celebrate with and give thanks for these couples from our parish who have been married for 50+ years. Their names and the number of years they have been married are listed below.

Darlene and Randy Appler—51

Richard and Imogene Baehl—64

Bob and Martha Baehl—59

John and Diane Bassemier—57

Don & Debra Baumgart—50

Judy & Tim Bishop—51

John & Bonnie Bittner—64

Libby & Larry Broerman—52

Roland & Linda Cowan—50

Al and Janet Debes—55

Dave and Donna Dippel—57

Bob and Norma Duncan—71

Chick and Jean Duncan—58

Gene & Earlene Elpers—54

Rick & Pauline Elpers—50

Kathy & Randy Fehrenbacher—52

Judy & Richard Fehrenbacher—53

Bob & Mary Kay Fehrenbacher—50

Butch & Linda Feulner—56

Tom and Dolores Folz—66

Pat & Jeanne Freeman—56

Marcia & Steve Frey—51

Dennis and Bobbie Gibbs—58

Judy & Fred Gries—55

Carol & Danny Gries—53

Jackie & Larry Gries—51

Roger and Kathy Hall—57

Ray and Eloise Hamner—61

Fred and Mary Happe—60

Larry and Henrietta Happe—62

Jim & Susan Helmer—52

Jim and Janet Herr—55

Frank and Sandy Hertel—59

Mike and Donna Hiestand—61

Don and Carolyn Hutchison—58

Linda & Danny Kares—56

Esther & Dan Kelley—55

Don and Lynn Kissel—57

Anne & Steve Lannert—54

Dan and Dosey Lehman—66

Harry and Donna Lincoln—61

Carolyn & Daryl Lipper—52

Jon and Bernette Locklar—61

Stan and Glenda Love—58

John and Ruby Manger—61

Scott & Lisa Marts—50

Cynthia & Ken Massberg—51

Mary and Joe Mayer—74

Gail & John Maurer—52

Bob and Marilyn Mossberger—64

Tom and Clara Raben—58

Barb and Allen Rexing—55

Chuck and Theresa Roberts—53

Ray and Charlene Schapker—61

Tony and Alma Scheller—59

Kathy & Dan Schenk—50

Dave and Charlotte Schlichting—59

Dave & Sandy Schmitt—50

Eugene & Elizabeth Schmitt—50

Dennis & Joanie Schneider—66

Randy and Jeannine Shumate—56

Bob and Betty Singer—74

Don and Alice Weis—60

Sharon and Steve Willis—56

Dan & Sharon Voelker—54

Vince and Judy Werner—53

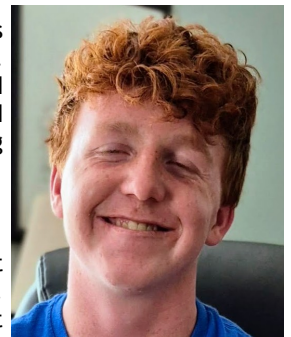
Gary and Diane Wunderlich—56



wanting the best for them. One thing that I think is important is you have to be willing to get involved. You can't just sit on the sidelines. Getting involved is the way your form friendships. Getting involved is one way to learn what your gifts are. Learning how to use your gifts wisely is also very important."

Zach Bishop

An easy smile and an engaging personality greet you when you sit down to talk with Zach Bishop. Zach is a senior at Mater Dei. He is the son of Matt and Jenny (Folz) Bishop, the younger brother of



(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Katelyn, a sophomore at Purdue and the older brother to Ellie, a sophomore at Mater Dei and Blake, an eighth grader at St. Joe.

Zach has been busy at Mater Dei. He's spent a great deal of time working on his academic classes. Among those classes are AP classes in Calculus, Macroeconomics, Physics and Literature. And he has found time to do an internship at Koch and Sons. In recognition of his academic work, Zach was inducted into the National Honor Society at Mater Dei.

In the first years of high school, Zach was a member of the football team, but he gave that up in favor of Cross Country. "Too many concussions in football. I like cross country. I'm not the best runner, but I like being part of the team."

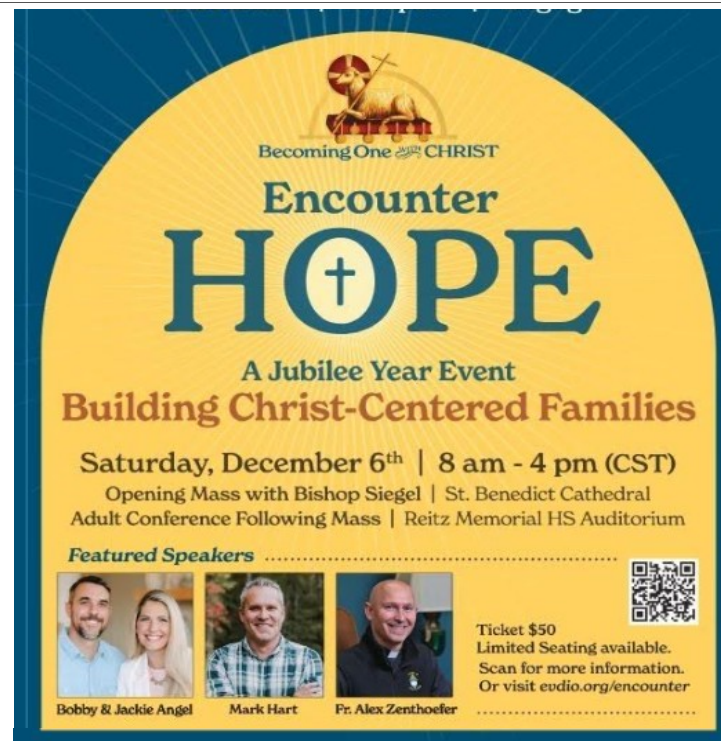
In addition to classes and sports, Zach is also a home room representative for student government. He is also a member of the Teen Advisory Council which includes representatives from all the high schools in Evansville. This group is under the direction of Youth Resources and means attendance at weekly Friday morning meetings at 5:50 am. But since he is also heading up the Special Events Group, he has to be there even earlier—5:30 am. They are currently planning Halloween and Christmas gatherings that are all about teaching youth that you can have fun without getting in trouble with substance abuse.

Zach has also been part of the Teen Power Group at Mater Dei since his Freshman year. This group is all about developing leadership skills and working with groups of people. "You have to learn how to pay attention to the needs of the people in your group and help them feel included and a part of things."

Zach has also been one of the leaders for the youth group at Holy Redeemer Parish, trying to organize events for people to have fun and also giving them a time for prayer and reflection.

Next year, Zach plans on pursuing a degree in Engineering. Purdue might be a place to go especially since his sister is there, and his dad graduated from Purdue. But he is also looking at Murray State and U of E. "It all depends upon the scholarship offers I get. Down the road, he can see himself working as a structural engineer, hopefully with some local company."

Zach attended St. Joe grade school since Kindergarten. "Looking back, grade school was a lot easier than high school. I really enjoyed my years in grade school, great lunches and fun



Becoming One  CHRIST

Encounter HOPE

A Jubilee Year Event
Building Christ-Centered Families

Saturday, December 6th | 8 am - 4 pm (CST)
Opening Mass with Bishop Siegel | St. Benedict Cathedral
Adult Conference Following Mass | Reitz Memorial HS Auditorium

Featured Speakers



Bobby & Jackie Angel



Mark Hart



Fr. Alex Zenthoef

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times at recess. And I got to participate in all the different sports. The teachers we had were great. There are a lot of great memories being part of St. Joe Parish as well. "When I think of St. Joe I think about coming to Mass each Sunday and helping out at the fish fry and summer social." His job was getting the fish and chicken to the carryout folks. "It's a small community and everyone seems to get along working together. That is what makes it fun for me." Memories also include playing baseball with the St. Joe Baseball League and going to St. Joe Inn for food and refreshments after the game. Family plays a big part in Zach's life. "We're a pretty tight family and we have a lot of get togethers with both sides of my family. It's great getting together with cousins and catching up on what is happening in their lives. And, of course, there is lots of good food to enjoy as well. A special highlight is the Turkey Games at Thanksgiving. We play different board games and the winner gets to keep the "Turkey Trophy" until the next Thanksgiving."

Zach also enjoys going hunting with his dad, especially for deer. Last year I managed to get a deer with my crossbow. One of the big events on the Bishop family calendar is butchering. "I try to help out, but there are usually so many adults around, there is not a whole lot of things for me to do." It's no surprise that Zach counts his parents as having the biggest influence in his life. "My mom has taught me the importance of cleaning and learning how to try your hardest at whatever you do. The both have taught me the importance of a good work ethic. And if I have learned anything from my dad, it is the importance of giving the work you are doing the best effort you can. If a job is worth doing it is worth doing the right way. No half way measures."

WORDS OF WISDOM: "I think it is important to get involved. Put yourself in a position where you have to try new things. Be willing to take a few risks in life. Learning to be a leader has a lot to do with little things, like paying attention to details and following through on what you say you are going to do. Allow yourself to make mistakes. Don't spend your time second guessing everything you do. Some things you will do well and some things you won't. You can learn from everything. Believe in yourself and don't let what others may think stop you from doing what you believe in."

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL AND GET A TAX CREDIT ON YOUR STATE AND FEDERAL TAXES

The State of Indiana now enables you to reduce your state tax liability while at the same time helping low and middle income families send their children to our school. Donors are eligible to take advantage of a 50% credit against their state tax liability for contributions made to Choice Scholarship. If you make a contribution of \$100 you can take \$50 off your state taxes. There is no minimum necessary contribution. In addition, your full contribution can also be deducted from your federal taxes. Contributions that are made to an SGO can be designated for a specific school (in our case St. Joseph School). That way the money you contribute will definitely go to providing a grant for a needy family here at St. Joseph. You can donate online by checking out the website <http://www.i4qed.org/sgo/donors> If you would like more information call Fr. Gene Schroeder (812-963-3273).

 **INSTITUTE**
FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

WARNING

*Before you enter this terrain
there are a few things
you should know.*

*There is no entry fee,
but it will cost you plenty
to make this journey.*

*Pack a lunch. Lose your map.
Travel lightly. The weather
is unpredictable.*

*I am prone to sudden washouts,
to the startling, crumbling of the earth.
It's good to watch your step,
but what is underneath is strong,
and you are welcome to settle there
to rest for the night
or stay for the season.*

*Be careful at dusk.
It's when the beasts come to the water,
and it's not that they would devour you,
but they are protective of their terrain
and will not easily yield.*

*I can tell you
they will never be utterly tamed,
but with choice morsels,
and soothing words,
you may have them
eating from your hands.*

*If these warnings sound harsh, good;
the terrain is not
for the faint of heart
or for those who would travel
its contours crudely
littering its landscape
and stripping its soil.*

*But I think you were made
of stronger stuff
and more tender,
that you already know
the lay of this land;
how its treasures will yield
to your stretching fingers,
how its wellsprings will ease
your traveler's thirst,
how its brambles and thorns
will give way
to the waiting hidden garden
where grows the sweetest
most exquisite fruit
waiting to be consumed.*

Jan L. Richardson



(Continued from page 1)

We see a larger reality, and glimpse fresh ways that life can be live.

Now that we have glimpsed a new vision, we must bring that vision into our ordinary, day-to-day realities. While the journey thus far has brought us awareness, we now take up the work of truly transforming our everyday antidotes and behaviors, and one day at a time, the world around us too.

Each of the four gospels were written to help people come to understand these four elements—change, suffering, joy, and service. At Mass we read these gospels in a particular order over a three year cycle. First, the Gospel of Matthew which deal with the question of how we face change. Second, the Gospel of Mark, which deals with how we move through suffering. Third, the Gospel of Luke which deals with how we mature in service. In each of the three years, during the season of Lent and Easter, we read from the Gospel of John which deals with how we receive joy.

Each of the gospels come out of the lived experience of early Christian communities. We begin with the Gospel of Matthew. This year, starting with the beginning of Advent, Sunday, November 30, we will begin the three year cycle of readings and read from the Gospel of Matthew.

So, when was the Gospel of Matthew written and what was happening in the life of Jewish community at this time? Remember, that at this time, the early Christians were not know as “Christians” but thought of themselves as Jewish.

Bible scholars now believe that the Gospel of Matthew was written around the year 80. What was important for the Jewish community was worshiping in the sacred temple of Jerusalem built atop the sacred mountain Moriah, the place where it was believed that Abraham brought his son, Isaac to be sacrificed. He was prevented from doing this by an angel, but because of his willingness to obey God, God established his covenant with Abraham and his decedents. From this moment the Jewish people believe they had truly been chosen. The temple priests would ritually sacrifice a sacred lamb and, with sacred words, sprinkle the blood of the lamb on the altar. Doing this was a way of ensuring the covenant established by God with Abraham would continue.

Now the Jewish community was a persecuted group. The Romans were in charge and they wanted order and stability in their kingdom. They were always a little suspicious of the Jewish community, because they had a story that was central to their tradition—the story of the Passover and being freed from the oppression of the Egyptians. And then there is the problem of this man called Jesus who kept stirring things up by talking about the only true “kingdom” being the Kingdom of God and not the kingdom of Rome. The tension between the oppressors, the Romans, and those who were oppressed, the Jewish people, erupted many times. This came to a head when the Roman Emperor Vespasian, decided to put an end to all these troubles once and for all. And it was very brutal. Around the year 70, he had his soldiers, led by his son, Titus, a future emperor himself, kill all the Jewish priests of the temple and their families, and along with that he destroyed the sacred Jewish temple. But he did this in a special way by taking down all the bricks and all the sacred objects of worship and hauling them far away. The only thing that was left was the west wall of the temple. It served as a vivid reminder to the Jewish people to not mess with the authority of the Roman government. That wall still stands today in Jerusalem and is known as the wailing wall, where Jewish people pray today, often writing their prayers on paper and putting them in the cracks of the wailing wall. Recent Popes, John Paul II and Francis have both prayed at the wailing wall and left special notes in the cracks between the stones,



Understandably, this was a traumatic time for the Jewish people. The temple had been destroyed and all the temple priests and their families had been killed. After this massacre, the few remaining Jewish people fled north to the city of Antioch. What do we do now? This was the question on the minds of the whole Jewish community.

In Antioch, four different groups of the Jewish people were trying to answer the question—why has this happened to us? The first group believed that all hope was lost and this was pretty much the end time. The destruction of the world was

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7) **A FRESH NEW LOOK AT THE STORY OF JESUS (cont.)**
immanent. The destruction of the temple was the first sign that this was about to happen.

The second group, including many of the people we know as Pharisees, believed that the temple's destruction resulted from God's wrath, brought on by a laxity of religious observance.



And they set out to remind people that it was time for everyone to get back to practicing the Jewish religion the way God meant it to be practiced.

The third group, probably the largest, was just confused.

They knew an awful thing had happened, but they had many things to do just to keep on living and didn't really have time to think about this too much. "I can't think about this now. I'll think about it later," would be a way to describe their reaction. Many of these people simply wanted to get on with their lives. Others were very fearful and waited for the "right" answer to appear, one that would provide them with a sense of stability and safety.

These first three responses are very predictable and happen almost every time there is a big disruption in people's lives. Today we are going through much disruption. The ground that people are standing on, which many thought was solid, now seems anything but solid. Things seem to be in a state flux and all this uncertainty can be very unsettling. Into this, we hear cries of "things are all going to hell in a hand basket." "It's the end time, all is lost."

The second response is equally predictable. God is mad and He is showing his anger to us. The problem is that we have forgotten what we are supposed to be doing and if know what is good for us, we better get back to doing things the way we should have been doing. And if we get back to doing what we were supposed to be doing all along, maybe God's wrath will end.

And there are so many who just don't want to think about things. "I can't do anything about it anyway, just let me get on with the things I have to do in my life."

The problem with all these responses, as understandable as they are, is that they really don't offer much hope. At best they are rooted in a fear response, which may work for a short time, but it will never really help people be hopeful let alone live a life of joy.

But there was a fourth response among the Jewish people. The members of this group were extremely vociferous and very

LITURGICAL MINISTERS -OCTOBER 18, 2025 –NOVEMBER 16, 2025

DATE	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTORS
Saturday October 18, 2025 5 PM	Mary Loehrlein Carolyn Hutchinson Sis & Katie Jarboe	Susie Schapker
Sunday October 19, 2025 8 AM	Brian and Ann Craney Marcia Frey Terry Drone	Terry Drone
Sunday October 19, 2025 10:30 AM	Angie Will Sally Kempf Cecelia Koch Kitty Deig	Chad Martin
Saturday October 25, 2025 5 PM	Donald & Brandon Werner Mary Kay Fehrenbacher Donna Niemeier	Sis Jarboe
Sunday October 26, 2025 8 AM	Rodney and Paula Baehl Lisa Cook Darlene Appler	Tom Blythe
Sunday October 26, 2025 10:30 AM	Paul Hillenbrand Amy Cody Jena Wessel Rachael Schnaus	Jane Scheller
Saturday November 1, 2025 5 PM	Eric and Karen McDonald Butch and Linda Feulner	Susie Schapker
Sunday November 2, 2025 8 AM	Marcia Frey Stephanie Frey Tom and Dolores Folz	Tom Folz
Sunday November 2, 2025 10:30 AM	Becky Doshier Steve Jung Debra Baumgart Al Debes	Shane Wessel
Saturday November 8, 2025 5 PM	Diane Woods Eric Reffett Peter and Jodi Fehrenbacher	Sis Jarboe
Sunday November 9, 2025 8 AM	Jalane Weber Imogene Baehl Michael Elpers Chick Duncan	Marcia Frey
Sunday November 9, 2025 10:30 AM	Shane Wessel Diane Bassemier Danielle Weledge Doris Taylor	Chad Martin
Saturday November 15, 2025 5 PM	Mary Loehrlein Carolyn Hutchinson Lee and Toni Askins	Susie Schapker
Sunday November 16, 2025 8 AM	Randy and Kathy Fehrenbacher Brian and Ann Craney	Josh Baehl
Sunday November 16, 2025 10:30 AM	Debra Baumgart Sally Kempf Cecelia Koch Kitty Deig	Jane Scheller

determined, though small in numbers. They viewed their context and their challenge as starkly different from those of the other factions. They believed that their Messiah had already come and the Jesus was that Messiah. Their challenge lay in trying to understand what the Messiah expected of them in the wake of the loss of Temple (and all the accustomed rituals) and in navigating through the Jewish community, the majority of which did not share their beliefs.

Today we recognize this final group as the early Christians and they were the intended audience for Matthew as he wrote his gospel. He directed his gospel specifically to them in their time of chaos, trial and difficult beginnings. Matthew wanted them to understand that their Messiah who had come, Jesus the Christ, taught about a new temple to be built upon the heart of

(Continued on page 12)

MEN'S CLUB SAUSAGE SALE



TAKING ORDERS THROUGH NOVEMBER 2

AVAILABLE IN BULK OR LINK

MINIMUM ORDER IS 5 POUNDS

TO ORDER SIGN UP AT THE WEEKEND MASSES
OR CALL THE PARISH OFFICE (812-963-3273)

Last day to order is Sunday, November 2.

Pickup day is Saturday, Nov. 8th 7-10 am.

We'll be making the sausage on Friday, Nov. 7th beginning
at 1 pm. Come and join in helping.

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. *St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

World Mission Sunday-2025



"The church...is not a relief organization, an enterprise or an NGO, but a community of people, animated by the Holy Spirit, who have lived and are living the wonder of the encounter with Jesus Christ and want to share this experience of deep joy, the message of salvation that the Lord gave us. It is the Holy Spirit that guides the Church in this path."

Pope Leo, Message for World Mission Sunday

World Mission Sunday gives us the opportunity to pray for the Church's missionary work and to support it through

the special collection for the Missions. Your gift of \$25 can support a catechist for a month in the remote Latin America, \$75 provides support for a religious sister working with orphan children in Africa, \$100 assists poor children in boarding schools in Asia.



Please be as generous as possible in helping others to share in this greatest of gifts. There is an envelope for you to use for Mission Sunday in your monthly envelope package. Visit the Catholic Mission website at: www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org.

CAN YOU HELP US PROVIDE AN EDUCATION FOR THESE HAITIAN CHILDREN?

The St. Joe Haiti Student sponsorship program is in search of families to sponsor students at St. Jacques elementary school in Plain du Nord Haiti. Your sponsorship will allow these young, needy children an opportunity for an education and a



good lunch each day. Your \$400 sponsorship is used to fund tuition, uniforms, and school supplies for the children. If you are interested in being a sponsor for one of these children, contact the parish office (812-963-3273) and

we'll get the process started for you.

We are also looking for people who would be willing to sponsor students in our Haiti Sewing Hope Trade School. For \$25/month (\$300/year) you can help a young Haiti learn a trade that can sustain them for life. We are also looking for donations of sewing supplies and materials. Call the parish office (812-963-3273) and we'll get the process started for you.

Sewing Hope SEWING SCHOOL



A CHANCE TO DO SOME GOODand the need is great!

Have you noticed those barrels in the gym when we gather for mass? It's a simple invitation to share some food items for our local St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry. What's so important about that? Consider this: In the state of Indiana, 14% of the population lives below the poverty line. 12% of families struggle to put food on the table. One out of every six children is at risk of being hungry.

Your donations of a box of cereal, a jar of peanut butter, a box of oatmeal, a jar of pasta sauce and a bag of pasta, are all important. So too are your financial contributions. They use this money, and, working with the Tri-State Food Bank, are able to purchase things like milk and meat at greatly reduced prices.



LET'S GO HOG WILD FOR THE HOMELESS

In conjunction with the Men's Club Sausage sale next 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 November 1-2. You may also send your financial contributions to the parish office.



Especially during this Jubilee Year of 2025, we are called to be Pilgrims of Hope. As a concrete way of fulfilling this Jubilee imperative, our Diocese is participating in a partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Evansville to build a home for a family in need.

The Diocese has committed \$50,000 toward the cost of the home and is seeking to raise an additional \$50,000 through partnerships with parishes and Catholic groups and organizations in the Diocese. We invite members of every parish to consider making a financial gift to help us reach this goal. In addition to partnering with the Diocese on financial support, we invite you to join the diocesan office staff in a pledge of "sweat equity" toward the build.

As you know, providing shelter for those who are without proper housing is a corporal work of mercy, and this Jubilee Year initiative offers a powerful opportunity to fulfill that obligation together as the Church of Evansville.

Joseph M. Siegel

Bishop Joseph Siegel

If you would like to make a financial contribution to this effort, send it to us through the collection or in the mail. Be sure to note on it that it is for our the Diocesan Habitat House. If you would like to offer your help on the build, contact Matt Miller at the Diocesan Office (812-424-5536).

BLOOD DRIVE--SUNDAY OCTOBER 26 8 AM - NOON IN THE GYM

Every unit of blood that is donated
can benefit up to three people!

October 2025

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



Have You Made Your Pledge to our
Catholic Ministries Appeal (CPC)?
Parish Goal \$131,040
No Gift is too Large or too Small



Men's Club BURGEO SALE
October 26
7 AM -- ?
\$20-Gallon



Sunday, October 5
9 AM Coffee & Juice
Fellowship Sunday
Tasty Breakfast Treats
Great Company

1 5:00 am
Boot Camp
Mass 7:30 am
Parish Staff—Noon

That Man Is You
5:30
Bible Study 6:45

2 NO MASS

3 Mass 7:30 am
5:00 am Boot
Camp
Communion to
the Homebound
Women's
Bible Study at
8:30

4 Haiti & Food
Pantry Collection
Sacrament of
Reconciliation
4 pm
Mass 5 pm

5 8 & 10:30 Mass
Children's Liturgy
of the Word
Coffee & Donuts
RCIA -9 am
Haiti & Food
Pantry Collection
Family Class

6 5 am boot Camp
Eucharistic
Adoration
7 am—6:30 pm

Mass 6:30 pm



**FALL FESTIVAL WEEK Visit the PTO Booth (#28)
and St. Joe Men's Club Booth (#44)**

9 NO MASS

Altar Society
Meeting 6:30 pm

10 7:30 am Mass

NO SCHOOL
Communion to
the Homebound
Senior Citizens
Gathering 1 pm

11 Food Pantry
Collection
Sacrament of
Reconciliation
4 pm
Mass 5 pm

12 8 & 10:30
Mass
Children's Liturgy
RCIA 9am
Food Pantry
Collection

13 5 am Boot Camp
Eucharistic
Adoration
7 am—6:30 pm
6:30 pm Mass
Knights of St. John
Meeting 7 pm

14 7:30 am Mass

15 5 am Boot Camp
7:30 am Mass
Parish Staff Noon
That Man Is You
5:30
Bible Study 6:45

16 NO MASS

Haiti Ministry
Meeting 6 pm

17 5 am
Boot Camp
7:30 am Mass
Communion to
the Homebound
Women's Bible
Study at 8:30

18 Haiti & Food
Pantry Collection
Burgoo
Preparations 8 am
Sacrament of
Reconciliation
4 pm
Mass 5 pm

**IT'S LOTTERY TIME GET YOUR ST. JOE
& MATER DEI LOTTERY TICKETS**



19 8 & 10:30 Mass
Religion Class &
RCIA 9am
Children's Liturgy of
the Word 10:30
College Care
Packages due back
Confirmation Session
#3 11:30-1

20 5 am Boot
Camp
Eucharistic
Adoration
7 am—6:30 pm
Mass 6:30 pm
Men's Club
Meeting 7 pm

21
Mass 7:30 am



**GET YOUR MEN'S CLUB SAUSAGE BULK or LINK
5 LB MINIMUM ORDER LAST DAY TO ORDER NOV. 3**

22 5 am Boot Camp
Mass 7:30 am
Parish Staff Noon
That Man Is You
5:30
Bible Study 6:45

23 No Mass

24 5 am Boot
Camp
Mass
7:30 am
Communion to
the Homebound
Bible Study 8:30

25 Haiti and Food
Pantry Collection
Sacrament of
Reconciliation 4 pm
Mass 5 pm

WOMEN'S CURSILLO OCTOBER 23-27

26 **BLOOD DRIVE 8-NOON**
8 & 10:30 Mass
RCIA 9am
Children's Liturgy
of the Word 10:30
TRUNK or TREAT
1-3 PM

**BURGEO FOR
SALE 7 AM-7**

27 5 am Boot Camp
Eucharistic
Adoration
7 am—6:30 pm
Mass 6:30 pm

28
Mass 7:30 am

**Prayer Day for Vocations
Tuesday 6am--Wednesday 6am**

29 5 am Boot Camp
Mass 7:30 am
Parish Staff Noon
That Man Is You 5:30
Bible Study 6:45

30
NO MASS

31 5 am Boot
Camp
**MASS
7:30 AM**

Women's Bible
Study at 8:30

1 Haiti and Food
Pantry Collection
Sacrament of
Reconciliation 4 pm
Mass 5 pm
Family Pot Luck and
Bingo/games in the
gym—6:00

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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

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(Continued from page 8)

A FRESH NEW LOOK AT THE STORY OF JESUS (cont.)

each believer as a direct and personal relationship with God supported by a community of like believers. No longer was a huge edifice or special location needed. Matthew's inspired gospel became the prayer and practice of the Messianic Jews, forming their spiritual foundation.

Matthew's gospel offered the community the beginnings of the path of transformation—how do we deal with change in life. Matthew uses the metaphor of "mountain" to describe what it is like to be on this first path of our faith journey. As we make our way up our own "mountains" we trip over pebbles, jump over rocks, and try to climb over the boulders of our actions, preconceptions and fears. How often we do continue to believe in their permanence and solidity, even as we watch them shift and crumble, both from their essential instability and in the face of our stubborn resistance?

The patterns in which Matthew structures his lessons are just like the lessons we much learn ourselves in the first path. As we continue to explore the gospel of Matthew we will see how Matthew's writings direct us to the development of our own inner resources, most especially self-honesty, self-compassion in the face of loss, and trust in the God. Next month we will look at some of the passages of the Gospel of Matthew that speak of this journey. If you would like to learn more about, you can read *The Hidden Power of the Gospels* by Alexander John Shaia. You can also check out his work on his website www.quadratos.org.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 6 PM
LEARN ABOUT MAKING A WILL
PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE

Why make a will? What about taking care of my children if something should happen to me?
What can I do to ensure my financial security?

(Continued from page 1)

CREATING AN AWARENESS FOR RECYCLING (cont.)

you driven by the Laubscher Landfill on St. Joe Avenue? Have you noticed how tall that mountain is getting? That's all the stuff we throw away being piled higher and higher.

Want to take "noticing" to an even higher level? How often do I use paper plates and plastic knives and forks and then throw them all in the trash? How many plastic water bottles have I used and thrown away, or left half full and thrown away? Even when I use these things, do I make a special effort to put them in recycle containers or simply throw them in the nearest trash container that I find? When I have a meeting in the gym or the cafeteria or even in school meeting room, how many lights do I need to turn on? Do all the lights have to be on, or can I get by just using some of the lights?



Creating a consciousness for recycling is challenging for us. We live in a world of "too muchness" so we don't really have to think much about recycling and that is why most people don't make efforts to recycle. It's all about noticing and then acting upon it. This simple action which leads to a greater care for our world is also at the heart of our faith journey. That journey is about noticing and awareness. If we can't notice things like recycling paper and plastic or lights being used unnecessarily, how are we going to notice the person who is hungry, the stranger in our midst, the sick and lonely? Or, how are we going to notice the simple stirrings in our heart that are God's invitation to take a closer walk with him, as we sing in that familiar hymn?