



THE CARPENTER

ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

VANDERBURGH COUNTY EVANSVILLE, INDIANA ESTABLISH IN 1841

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SEPTEMBER, 2025



A FRESH NEW PERSPECTIVE ON THE THE FOUR GOSPLES

Fr. Gene Schroeder
PASTOR

It's a question that has been asked many times—Why do Catholics....? More often than not, the answer that is given by many Catholics is "I don't know. That is just what we do!" While the answer may be a little humorous, it makes me sad. Do we really not know? Do we even care to know? Does it matter to us at all?

This is especially true when dealing with questions about the Bible. So many Catholics have very little knowledge of the Bible. Sad to say, the reason for much of this was that for so many years Catholics were not taught much about the Bible. The Bible was something Protestants talked about. We had the sacraments. And even sadder to say, for much the history of the Catholic church people were discouraged from reading the Bible for fear they would not interpret it correctly.

That leaves many Catholic feeling vulnerable and "out of their league" when they hear others quote scripture. "They must really be holy," they think, when it may mean nothing more than that person has a great memory. And so often people get sidetracked by the concerns of many people who approach the scriptures in a fundamentalist way: How big was the ark that Noah built? Did Jonah actually get swallowed up by a whale and how is it possible that he could live through that? Did Adam and Eve only have three sons and, if so, how is that world the human race continue? Was the world really created in six days?

Some people argue fiercely about the right and wrong answers to these questions. Other people just simple ignore the Bible altogether, figuring it has little relevance to their lives. In my mind, both of these responses, while understandable, miss the point. Even more, they miss out on the gift that the

Bible can be in our lives. But, if the Bible is to be a gift to us, it has to be able to speak to people in a way they can understand and to talk about things that people are actually going through.

One of the most exciting things that I have come across recently is the work-being done by Dr. Alexander John Shaia in his study

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DOING OUR PART TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF OUR DIOCESE

This month we begin our Catholic Ministries Appeal Campaign. Most of you will remember this as our annual CPC (Catholic Parishes Campaign). Once again I am calling upon you for your financial support. I know this can be quite challenging, given all the other financial requests we have made, let alone the financial demands you have with your own families.

But, once again, through this annual effort, we are making real our commitment to being part of the Catholic church that goes beyond our parish. We see ourselves as part of the Diocese of Evansville and as part of the Roman Catholic Church throughout the world.

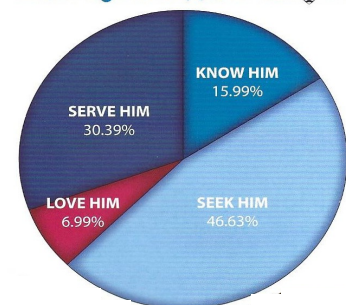
Embracing this vision can be challenging. No doubt it has been that way throughout the 183 year history of our parish. It's just human nature to think of ourselves and what immediately affects us. This is even more challenging when we are asked to give of our financial resources to help fund things that many of us don't fully understand or even have little appreciation of.

But the work we do collectively as a diocese is important. This work involves providing support for the work of our schools and religious education programs, training people to serve as catechists, deacons and priests, helping to fund a pension program for the employees of our schools and parishes, and publishing our weekly diocesan newspaper *The Message*.

Some of this work may not be that visible—things like overseeing our common health insurance and property and liability insurance programs, supporting the Catholic Church in the State of Indiana through the Indiana Catholic Conference; the Catholic Church in the United States through the National Catholic Conference of Bishops; and to the Church Universal at the Vatican to help Pope Leo pay the costs for running the Universal Church. While we may be unfamiliar with this work, it, too, is important.

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How Your Gift Serves



CATHOLIC MINISTRIES
APPEAL

DIOCESE OF EVANSVILLE

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MAKE YOUR PLEDGE TODAY!

PARISH GOAL	\$131,040.00
PLEDGED TO DATE	\$ 8,000.00
NUMBER OF PLEDGES:	1
NOW MORE THAN EVER YOUR HELP IS NEEDED IF WE ARE TO MEET OUR GOAL	



Living the Faith Together A year of Faith Filled Opportunities for the Whole Family

SUNDAY MORNING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday Morning Religious Education or "Family Class" will begin on August 17th at 9:00 am. We will meet two Sundays a month for instruction. Classes are for students in grades K-12, and we will be meeting at Resurrection School. Contact Jessica Reckelhoff to register.



for more information.

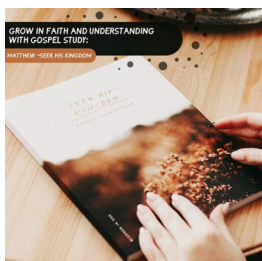
WOMENS RETREAT: HOPE!

Prepare your heart and mind this Lent 2026 with another inspirational Women's Retreat! Beginning Saturday, March 7 from 8:00 am–9:00 pm, then beginning again on Sunday, March 8th from 9:00 am - 11:30 am...a weekend packed with time for Adoration, guest speakers, live, reflective music, rosary, the spa hour, meals, snacks, drinks, confession, and Mass. What a great way to enter into the busy Lenten season. You are welcome to come

and pray for as long as you can. Contact Jessica Reckelhoff or Rachael Schnaus for information and/or to register.



Mrs. Jessica Reckelhoff
Religious Education Coordinator
email jreckelhoff@evdio.org
812-598-1151 CELL
812-963-3273 OFFICE



WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY GROUP

Women's Book Study— "Blessed is She The Gospel of Matthew" This study will begin on Friday, September 12th at 8:30 am in the school meeting room, following the 7:30 am school Mass. It will last for 8 weeks. Contact Jessica Reckelhoff to reserve a \$25 copy. If you aren't interested in the meetings, but still want the book, just let me know and I can save one for you! Childcare will be provided upon request.

THAT MAN IS YOU

Men, mark your calendars. That Man Is You! begins on Wednesday evenings beginning this September 3rd at 5:30 pm. That Man Is You! combines scripture, solid secular research, and a little fun to address the pressures and temptations facing men in our modern culture. It seeks to form authentic leaders who will be capable of transforming homes and society. Please contact Rodney Baehl, Steve Jung, or Andy Reckelhoff if you are interested in attending or being part of the planning and leading team!



BIBLE STUDY GATHERING

Our yearly Bible Study will begin this September 3, 2025. The Chosen Season 5 will be featured! The group will meet on Wednesdays from 6:45-8:00 pm in the school meeting room, and the group will be led by Paula Baehl.



JOIN US FOR BOOT CAMP AND SOUL-CORE PRAYER AND EXERCISE

Summer BOOT CAMP was a hit! Boot Camp exercise will continue this August–December on Monday and Friday mornings at 5:00 am, meet in the school gym with a set of weights and an exercise mat. Soul Core Rosary and exercise will take place on Wednesday mornings at 5:00 am in the gym. Core strengthening exercise alongside the rosary! Join us all three mornings for a great workout! Contact Jennifer Muensterman, Sarah Frazier, Stephanie Szczapinski, or Jessica Reckelhoff if you are interested.



PRAYING THE ROSARY

We have a long standing tradition of praying the rosary before the 8:00 Sunday morning Mass...expanding on this during the months of October and May, we will pray the rosary before each Weekend Mass; for the 5:00 Saturday Mass, rosary will begin at 4:40, for the 8:00 am Sunday Mass, rosary will begin at 7:40, and for the 10:30 am Sunday Mass, rosary will begin at 10:10. If you would like to lead one of the rosaries before Mass, contact Jessica Reckelhoff.



INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

These sessions, also known as RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) are open to those who want to learn more about our Catholic Faith tradition. They are also open to folks who are already catholic but would like to learn more about our faith tradition



What am I looking for?
How can I become part of something bigger than myself?
What is the meaning of my life?
How can I be a better person?
Does God have something to say to me?
What is the right path for me in life?
How can I make a difference in this world?
What can I do about the loneliness I feel?
How can I come to know God's love?

If you are asking these questions or questions like them, or think you may be interested... join us. We will begin on Sunday, September 21st at 9:00 in the school meeting room. If you want to just come and inquire, please feel free to join us on the 21st to see what RCIA is all about. Contact Fr. Gene Schroeder, (812-499-9074), Tom Blythe (812 440-3563), Sr. Bridget Arnold, or Jessica Reckelhoff



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation: Students entering their sophomore year of high school can begin attending Confirmation Classes leading up to the Rite of Confirmation on March 1, 2026. **The first session will be on September 14th from 11:30-1.** Please contact Jessica Reckelhoff if you have any questions.

MAKE A CURSILLO WEEKEND

Cursillo is a lay movement for spiritual life within the Church to make the world more Christ-like. The method of the movement is to form small groups of Christians who meet in a friendship group to share their lives as Christians. A four-day encounter is a part of the movement that prepares the Christian to live out his or her faith. There are two Cursillo weekends for Men and Women coming up.



MEN'S WEEKEND SEPT. 4-7

WOMEN'S WEEKEND OCT. 23-26

St. Joseph is blessed to have a large number of individuals and married couples who have made a Cursillo weekend. They are happy to share their experiences with you. Call the Parish Office (812-963-3273) for more information.

TEC (TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST) WEEKEND



TEC weekends have begun again. TEC is a three-day retreat experience for High School Juniors through age 21. It is an opportunity to make new friends, experience your faith in a different way, and have some fun. Find out what everyone is talking about. The next TEC weekend #120 October 4-October 6. Contact Jessica Reckelhoff or anyone who has made a TEC weekend.

PARISH FUN EVENTS

There will be many opportunities for Fun Events this Year, beginning with a **Parish Bingo Evening** on **September 13th** following the 5:00 Mass. \$1 cards; drinks and appetizers! On November 1st at 6 pm, there will be a **Family Potluck and Games Night** in the school gym. Bring a side dish and your favorite family game. Then on December 13th from 6:00-8:30 pm, there will be a **Parent's Night Out**. After the 5:00 Mass, parents can drop their children off and enjoy an evening out! We will be making dinner, cookies, playing games, and watching a Christmas movie. And on January 15th, we will be having a **Trivia Night!** Come for pizza, snacks, drinks, and of course trivia! License number 002485



OTHER RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES

There are many occasions for individual and couples' retreats through the parish. Individuals coordinate some and others are coordinated through the Parish. There are several retreat centers in our area that schedule retreats for groups and individuals. Among them are St. Meinrad Archabbey (www.saintmeinrad.org/retreats); Sisters of St Benedict at Ferdinand (www.thedome.org/spiritual-enrichment); the St. Louis Jesuit Retreat Center (www.whretreat.org) and the Sisters of Providence in Terre Haute (spsmw.org/spirituality-prayer). Check out any of these websites for more information.

ON-LINE RESOURCES

st.joeco.org/on-line-resources

Our parish website contains an incredible amount of information for people to access. You can, of course, access our parish website through your desktop or laptop computer. But more and more, people access information from websites through their smart phone. And our website is designed to work well with smart phones. Here are some things you can find our parish website.

You can find information about Pope Leo. A simple click on our website and you can listen to the sermons he gives each morning. You can also access the official website of the Vatican where you can read the talks and letters Pope Francis gives including his weekly audiences. You can also be a part of Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network.



What's Happening with Pope Leo?

where

You can pray the rosary, have access to reflections on the readings at Mass each Sunday through the Word Among Us and First Impressions from Fr. Jude Siciliano.



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

You also have the chance to access Franciscan Media. There you will find daily meditations, saint of the day reflections as well as resources for children and family.



You can also find reflections from Fr. Ron Rohlheiser, Philip Gulley, Sr. Joan Chittister, and Fr. Richard Rohr, Parker Palmer and John Shaia. Through such invitations as "Monasteries of the Heart," an online movement sharing Benedictine Spirituality with contemporary people, the Center for Action and Contemplation, and Quadratos—Opening the Ancient Christian Story in a Fresh New Way. With each of these you will have the access to weekly and daily meditations, reflections on scripture readings, various online retreats, study groups, and seminars and various podcasts on different subjects relating to our spiritual journey.

All this is a kind of spiritual smorgasbord. We are all at different places on our spiritual journey. There are things listed here that will appeal to some folks and not to others. But there is sure to be something for everyone here. Check it out: stjoeco.org/on-line-resources



QUADRATOS—OPENING THE ANCIENT CHRISTIAN STORY IN A FRESH NEW WAY



REMEMBERING *Stephanie Purcell*

December 31, 1963--March 14, 2025

Stephanie's life was tragically cut short as a result of a car accident that occurred in the midst of a dust storm near Edson, Kansas. She and her sister, Denise Allison were returning from a trip to Colorado where they had visited their sister.

Stephanie lived a life marked by passion, determination, and deep love for her family and community. A proud graduate of Mater Dei High School in 1982, Stephanie went on to earn her Bachelor of Industrial Management from Purdue University in 1987. Her academic achievements laid the foundation for a remarkable professional journey that blended leadership with innovation.

Stephanie was the President, Co-Founder, and Owner of JAZ Industrial, LLC, a company she helped establish in 2014 with her husband, Brian Price. Under her guidance, JAZ Industrial earned the distinction of being a Certified Woman Owned Business. Her entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to excellence were evident in every aspect of her work. Prior to founding JAZ Industrial, she was a long-time employee at the University of Southern Indiana, where she made lasting contributions and built enduring relationships.

Her dedication to service extended beyond her career. Stephanie was an active member of the Evansville Civitan Club and was honored with both the Honor Key Award and the President Exceptional Award testaments to her unwavering commitment to civic engagement and community betterment. She was also an active member and Board position holder of USI Varsity Club, which she held inspiration and passion for supporting USI athletics and continuing education.

Stephanie's vibrant personality shone through in every facet of her life. She had a zest for living that was contagious, whether she was dominating trivia nights, playing pinball with unmatched enthusiasm, tending to her garden, or dancing at concerts. She loved exploring breweries, camping under the stars, traveling to new places, and playing softball. But above all else, she cherished time spent with her children, friends, and extended family, including activities such as board games, reading books, or just talking for hours on end.

She is survived by her loving mother Bea Purcell; devoted husband of 36 years Brian Price; sons Zachary Price (Christine) and Joshua Price; daughter Alexis Price; Dunbar the Shark; sister Denise Allison (Clay); brother Gregg Purcell (Julie); sister Tina Purcell (Gary Mansfield); as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles, in-laws, and amazing friends who were touched by her warmth and strength.

Stephanie was preceded in death by her father George Purcell; mother-in-law Mary Lee Price; father-in-law George Price; beloved dog Roxy (or Roxie), affectionately remembered as "Best Puppies Ever"; along with many cousins, aunts, uncles, and dear friends whose memories she carried close to her heart.

Those who knew Stephanie will remember her as a lover and a fighter, the best mother, sister, daughter, cousin, aunt, friend, and wife anyone could ever ask for. She cared fiercely for those around her and stood firm in what she believed was right. Whether you were family or a stranger met across a pinball machine or campfire circle, if you knew Stephanie you knew love. We pray that her memory will bring comfort to all who were fortunate enough to know her.

REMEMBERING *Fran Happe*

September 19, 1936 - August 3, 2025

A gregarious man with a easy smile and a quick wit who enjoyed people.

Fran was born on September 19, 1936, one of four children born to Sylvester and Irene Happe. His sister Darlene (Baumgart) and his brothers Ron and Bob preceded him in death.

Fran's family grew up on Division Street just east of Weinbach Avenue. Fran attended St. Benedict Grade School and later graduated from Memorial High School in 1954 with a perfect attendance record. During his time at Memorial, he also took classes at North Mechanical Arts School. Those classes enhanced his ability to work with his hands and to work on all manner of machines.

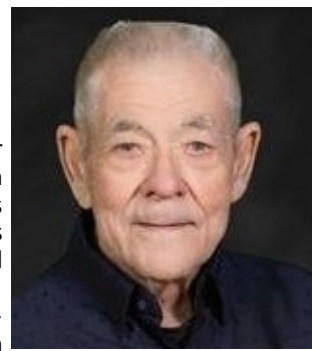
Fran served in the Army from 1957-1963, first in the Army Reserves before being called to active duty in 1961. From a young age, Fran worked at many different jobs. As a young teenager he had his own paper route and also served as the "key" guy at St. Ben's making sure the school was open each morning for the school day. When he got older he began to work at a local Shell gas station where he developed a lot of skills for working on cars and trucks.

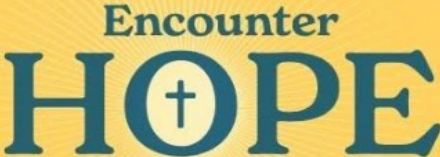
Later, Fran drove a gasoline truck for Shell Oil and, for a time worked at Hardy Brakes. Over the years, he also worked as a bartender at Darmstadt Inn, a job that came easy to him because he enjoyed talking with all kinds of people. But he is mostly remembered for his time working as a fleet mechanic for SIGECO (now known as Center Point Energy.) For over twenty-two years, Fran worked on trucks, trenching machines, compressors, whatever equipment SIGECO had. He was the "go to" guy. If it was broken and in need of repair, Fran could fix it.


The anchor in Fran's life was his marriage to a St. Wendel gal named Shirley Martin. They met because Shirley and some of her girl friends found their way to a party that happened to be at the Happe home on the eastside. Fran was asleep on the coach, but Shirley sensed something special about him. "I knew I had to check this guy out!" They began dating, and as Fran told the story, he was trying to decide if Shirley was the girl for him. As it happened, Lent was about to begin, so Fran thought the best thing was for him to "give her up for Lent." Somehow, Shirley went along with this plan. Now during the whole season of Lent each of them were talking to folks who knew them, asking "is she still talking about me," is he saying anything about me." Easter came and Fran and Shirley had their own special experience of "Resurrection" and soon were married.

They got married on September 19, 1960 at 8:30 am. They had breakfast for the wedding party after that and then went driving around, announcing their wedding to the neighborhood. They had a big meal and reception for family and friends at the Martin home and then topped off the day with a dance at the Hornville Tavern.

Fran and Shirley found some ground on Orchard Road and decided to build a new home there. Before they could finish the house, Fran was recalled into service, so Shirley, now expecting the birth of their first child (a boy named Jerry), moved in with Fran's parents.








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 Zenthoefer

Ticket \$50
Limited Seating available.
Scan for more information.
Or visit evdio.org/encounter



Friday Night Bilingual
HOLY HOUR | Featuring
December 5th | 6-7pm (CST)
St. Benedict Cathedral. No Ticket Required.

 **Diocese of Evansville**
Celebrating the Jubilee Year

After his time in the army ended, Fran returned home and he and Shirley, with a lot of help from family and friends, finished the home they started to build. For the next sixty-two years this would be Fran's home. It was a place they welcomed their two daughters, Jayne and Jo Ann. In time they would welcome daughter-in-law Cindy and son-in-laws Rob Schoenstein and Tom Downs. Later grandchildren and great grandchildren would come to enjoy this place especially for Christmas, Easter and all manner of family gatherings at the Happe party house.

Fran's "hands on" way of life that he exhibited in his various jobs, also extended to his care for his home. He was very particular about how things should be done with the care for his lawn and his garden. Fran had a love for animals as well. This included the family dogs and even the raccoons that wandered on the property. In time he would also care for a small flock of sheep and goats, the most notorious of which was a billy goat he affectionately named "Eugene." His care for animals did have limits though. When Eugene became a little aggressive and even attacked Fran when he was feeding the goats, his time on the farm came to an end!

Fran was quick to offer his time and talents with our parish as well. If you came to our summer social you would find Fran working in the carryout booth putting meals together. It was easy to notice him because of his jovial nature and his good natured bantering with co workers and customers alike. You would find him as well helping to prepare the food for our annual fish fries. Fran helped with our annual rummage sale as well. Always one to bring a little light heartedness to every situation, it would not be unusual to find Fran wearing some of

THE ALTAR SOCIETY IS MAKING KUCHENS ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 13 JOIN US TO HELP AT 7:30 AM



the clothes people had brought, especially the latest women's attire. For many years Fran served on the board that oversaw the care and operation of our parish cemetery. Fran and Shirley were honored for their example of stewardship by being inducted in the Diocese of Evansville Brute Society.

Over the last few years Fran was confronted with a number of health issues which took a toll on him. When it became clear that there was not a whole lot more doctors could do for him, Fran made the decision to enter hospice care. With their help and the love and support of Shirley and his family, Fran was able to spend the last weeks of his life at home. He died on August 3.

We give thanks for the blessing Fran was to his family and to our parish and we pray that he will now be able to experience the fullness of God's life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS --SEPT. 20, 2025 -- OCT. 12, 2025

DATE	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTORS
Saturday September 20, 2025 5 PM	Diane Woods Eric Reffett Peter and Jodi Fehrenbacher	Susie Schapker
Sunday September 21, 2025 8 AM	Chick Duncan Brian and Ann Craney Marcia Frey	Jalane Weber
Sunday September 21, 2025 10:30 AM	Debra Baumgart Diane Bassemier Danielle Weledge Doris Taylor	Jane Scheller
Saturday September 27, 2025 5 PM	Mary Loehrlein Carolyn Hutchinson Katy Jarboe Diane Woods	Sis Jarboe
Sunday September 28, 2025 8 AM	Terry Drone Lisa Cook Rodney and Paula Baehl	Dave Schmitt
Sunday September 28, 2025 10:30 AM	Sally Kempf Cecelia Koch Kitty Deig Paul Hillenbrand	Shane Wessel
Saturday October 4, 2025 5 PM	Donald & Brandon Werner Mary Kay Fehrenbacher Donna Niemeier	Toni Askins
Sunday October 5, 2025 8 AM	Darlene Appler Jalane Weber Kylie and Stephanie Frey	Tom Folz
Sunday October 5, 2025 10:30 AM	Amy Cody Jena Wessel Rachael Schnaus Becky Doshier	Chad Martin
Saturday October 11, 2025 5 PM	Eric and Karen McDonald Butch and Linda Feulner	Sis Jarboe
Sunday October 12, 2025 8 AM	Tom and Dolores Folz Imogene Baehl Michael Elpers	Tom Blythe
Sunday October 12, 2025 10:30 AM	Shane Wessel Steve Jung Al Debes Debra Baumgart	Jane Scheller

TAKING CARE OF OUR BUILDINGS

With help from lots of people!

Taking care of the buildings on our parish campus has been a hallmark of our parish. We are blessed to have many parishioners who have the skills needed to do much of this ongoing maintenance work and who have always been ready to offer their expertise. Over the last several months a number of projects have been undertaken to ensure the long term care of our school and church. Here's just a few things that have happened.

Storage building repair. Last March, a wind storm caused a tree to fall on the southwest corner of our storage building. With the help for lots of people we were able to clear the downed tree and clean out any damaged material stored in the building. The damaged section of the building was repaired. Thankfully, this repair work was covered by insurance.

The wind storm also lifted the membrane of our gym roof. The only way to repair this was to install a new roof on the gym. The current roof was reaching the end of its lifetime having been installed in 1998. A new roof was installed over the gym and the lower section just east of the gym. Only a portion of the cost for the new roof was covered by insurance, since the roof was nearing the end of its life.



A new light was installed near our new cremation columbarium in our cemetery. This completes the work we planned in setting up this area.



We had some moisture seepage in the school art room so several areas of exterior brick were tuck-pointed and sealed. Several cabinets which had been damaged by mold, were repaired. New extra wide table tops were installed on the art room tables.



With the help of members of the Men's Club, old bookshelves were removed from the third and fourth grade classrooms, science room and pre-school enrichment room. The original radiator heating units in each of these classrooms was also removed. Since we installed air conditioning in the school, these units have not been used. New cabinets were installed in all of these classrooms. This

completes a multi-year project of installing new cabinets in each of our school classrooms.



An extensive effort was made to strip and wax the classroom floors which meant remov-

ing years of wax build up on the floors. In addition, the desks and chairs were cleaned and new gliders installed to prevent them from scratching the waxed floor. That work required the help of a great number of volunteers.

The gym floor was cleaned and sealed. We are grateful to the Athletic Committee for providing the money to do this work. A new flooring was installed in a section of the boys bathroom as well as the three janitorial closets. New cabinets were installed in each of the janitorial closets.

Several new electrical outlets were installed in the seventh and eighth grade classrooms. Several other electrical upgrades were completed in other areas of the school. The air-conditioning unit in the school kitchen was replaced. Several other units were repaired. Several broken window panes in the school office were replaced.

A new exhaust fan and duct work system was installed in the stove and ovens located in the boiler room. This allows the heat generated from the ovens and stove top to be exhausted out of the building. Finally, the concrete steps leading to the south entrance of the school were repaired.

All told, these projects represent an investment of over \$200,000. This does not include the value of all the volunteer hours which is priceless! Without their help, none of this work would have been completed. They are continuing our great parish legacy of people who have given so much of their time and energy to keep the buildings on our parish campus in such great shape! We are blessed!

(Continued from page 1)

A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON THE GOSPELS (cont)

of the four gospels. He calls his work "opening the Christian story in a fresh new way." He uses the image of a kaleidoscope to explain this. If you have ever looked at a kaleidoscope, you know that it has the same number of glass colored pieces in it and the individual pieces stay the same color. But if you turn the kaleidoscope every so slightly, a whole new image appears.

Dr. Shaia points out that what he is offering is not something that negates what we have learned about the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Rather, it adds to it with a new insight. You can learn more about Dr. Shaia and his work at www.quadratos.org.

So, over the next several months I want to share with you this fresh way of looking at the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We begin with simple questions. How was it that these Gospels were written? Did someone just come up with the idea that we ought to write down some of these stories we heard, or were told about Jesus—a kind of "let's not forget these things." And how was it that they started to read these gospel stories at Mass? And how is it that we read the particular gospel readings we do at Mass today?

Much of the desire to have Catholics become more versed in the bible goes back to the Second Vatican Council. In 1963 the bishops published a decree entitled "The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy." This document not only called for the liturgy to be celebrated in the languages of the people (in our case, English) but also called a wider selection of biblical texts to be used at Mass. If you were going to Mass at these times, you probably didn't know what passages of scripture were being read because they were all in the Latin language.

In 1969, Pope Paul VI officially promulgated the use of the lectionary we now use at Mass. This lectionary involved a three year cycle of readings. With regards to the gospel readings, we read from a particular gospel (Matthew, Mark and Luke) in each of these three years. In all three years of this cycle we read sections from the gospel of John during the seasons of Lent and Easter.

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(Continued from page 6)

Now, how was it that they read sections of the gospel in this particular order: Year A—Matthew, Year B—Mark, Year C—Luke with section of the gospel of John read during Lent and Easter. Actually, what they were doing was going back to the way the gospels were read in the early days of the church in the third and fourth centuries. Why these particular gospels, since there were other gospels around including the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Mary and the Gospel of Philip?

To answer this, we have to have some understanding of what was happening with the early Christians after the death of Jesus and during the time of the early apostles. They were all baptized and now were facing the very practical question of just how does one go about living the life of a follower of Jesus. And they had to learn how to do that given the things they were going through at the time.

Since they considered themselves part of the Jewish faith tradition, they would look to that experience as a guide. What did that tradition tell them about growing up in their faith? Looking back on the story of the exodus from Egypt during the time of Moses and their journey to the promised land, they learned something about what it takes to grow up in faith. That journey would involve grappling with four distinct questions: How do you deal with change? How do you deal with suffering? How do you receive joy? How do you mature in a life of service?

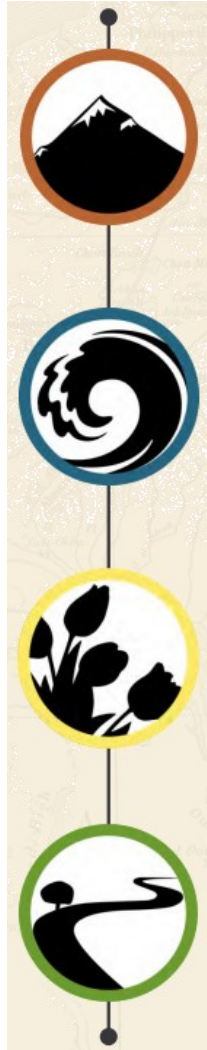
These questions were at the heart of the exodus from slavery into the promised land. First they had to leave Egypt. Even though they were an enslaved people, this would require change and not everyone would leave. And once they left slavery they wandered in the desert for forty years. Leaving slavery would not mean instant happiness. They

would have to “unlearn” a lot of things and that learning would mean lots of letting go’s. They would have to learn how to deal with suffering before they could enter the promised land. And then they entered the joy of being in the promised land. Here they would have to learn how to receive joy and how joy would come into their lives. Then, having come to receive this joy, they would have to learn how to live out of this joy in a life of service.

What the Jewish community was tapping into was very ancient religious wisdom about the journey people go through to grow up in faith. This journey would challenge believers with four questions: How do you deal with change in life? How do you deal with pain and suffering in life? How do you receive joy? How do you then live a life of service? Four key elements—change, pain, joy and service.

So when the early community of baptized believers asked the very practical question—how does one live out their lives as a follower of Jesus—that answer would involve these four key elements. And they began to see each of the gospels as speaking to one of these four elements: The Gospel of Matthew—how do you deal with change; the Gospel of Mark—how do you deal with pain; the Gospel of John—how do you receive joy; the Gospel of Luke—how do you live a life of mature service.

So, over the next few months I will be sharing more about this fresh look at the four gospels. More than information, this is an opportunity to “let the word of God take deep roots in our hearts” as St. Paul tells us.



PRAYING THE ANGELUS PRAYER

Our church bells are ringing again. If you are close to church you can hear them ring each day at 6 am, noon, and 6 pm. Some people may wonder just why the bells ring at these times. It goes back to the ancient tradition of pausing three times a day and praying the Angelus Prayer. The theme throughout this prayer’s history and usage is the number *three*. There are *three* antiphons, *three* Hail Marys, and the prayer has been traditionally said *three* times a day: in the morning (usually 6 AM), at noon, and in the evening (usually 6 PM). Most commonly, the angelus is prayed at noon. The focus of the prayer centers on Mary’s willingness to listen to the word of God and act on it in her life. Here is that prayer



V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,
R. And she was conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord,
R. Be it done unto me according to your Word.

Hail Mary...

V. And the Word was made flesh,
R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts: that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Chances are you’ve seen this famous painting. It’s called *L’Angelus* (*The Angelus*) and was painted by Jean-François Millet in the mid-19th century. It depicts a peasant couple in a potato field, farm tools set aside, their heads bent in prayer. In the midst of a physically-demanding work day, this man and woman are taking time

to pause, direct their thoughts to God, and humbly receive His grace.

While the Angelus can be prayed three times a day, it is most normally prayed at noon. You may be familiar with the fact that each Sunday, Pope Leo, as did his predecessors, gathers with the people in St. Peter’s Square in the Vatican, to pray the Angelus prayer.



2025 SUMMER SOCIAL--RUNNING LIKE CLOCKWORK



It was the night before our summer social chicken dinner and all through the school kitchen and cafeteria everything was quiet. The cooler in the kitchen was filled to overflowing with all manner of ingredients. Two hundred pounds of flour and ninety dozen eggs had been made into dumplings and were all ready to be cooked. The bread, eggs, onions, celery and chicken were all prepared for the dressing, 2600 servings of sweet and sour slaw were packaged, fifty four boxes of chickens were cleaned and ready to be fried, 5200 cookies were baked and put into individual bags, all the ingredients for the corn, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy were at the ready.

All the pots and pans needed for cooking the meal were in their places. The tables were all set up ready to put all the carryout meals together.

Sunday morning things began to happening early. At 2:30 am the ovens were lit and ready for baking dressing. By 3:30 the first batch of dressing was in the oven. Soon the chicken fryers would begin to fry the 7800 pieces of chicken. And the dumpling crew had begun to cook all those delicious dumplings.

By 7 am the carryout folks had set up the signs so that all the folks coming to pick up their dinners would know where to go. Meanwhile the corn, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy were all being prepared.

By 9 am the cafeteria was filled with people ready to put the meals together in their special containers. By 9:30 the dinners began to roll out of the cafeteria to hungry customers. Over the next two and half hours over 2600 dinners were shared with eager customers. It was comfort food at its best.

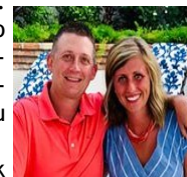
We were able to share some of our great meals with the folks at the United Caring Shelter, the House of Bread and Peace, the Ozanam Family Shelter, some of the workers at the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry and some of the volunteers at Habitat, and the offi-

cers and staff at the Vanderburgh County Jail. Avery Frankenberger, one of our parishioners, who also works at the jail, helped to make all this possible. The response we got from them was typical: "The food was great. We can't thank you enough!"

By 1 pm, the cleanup crew was hard at work putting the kitchen and cafeteria back in shape for school. The chicken frying area was being cleaned, all the dishes had all been washed and all the social equipment had once again been put back in their storage.

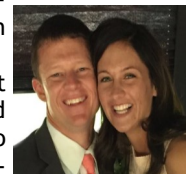
It's quite an operation. And this year it seemed everything went as smooth as it could possible go. A big shout out to all those who helped out in one way or another. From the beginning to the end, these efforts were characterized by a great spirit of cooperation! We are especially grateful to the leadership that our social co-chairs Patrick and Britt Fehrenbacher and Chip and Megan Altstadt provided. They were on top of all the details from beginning to end. Their leadership was instrumental to the overall success of our social. As one person said "Every single thing we needed was there right away. They make a hard job much easier." Another person commented, "they made it so that people wanted to help out."

We are also grateful to the efforts everyone made to recycle as many different items as we could. Special thanks to Cindy Schmitt, Kristan Gilles and Al Debes for the leadership they provided in collecting and disposing of our recyclable materials.



Britt and Patrick

Fehrenbacher



Megan and Chip

Altstadt

2025 SUMMER SOCIAL GRAND RAFFLE WINNERS

\$10,000—Peter & Jodi Fehrenbacher
\$2,500—House of Bread & Peace
\$500—Andrea Backes
\$500—Henrietta Happe
\$500—Amy Back
\$500—Fr. Ray Brenner
\$500 Early Bird—Rich Harpenau

Congratulations!

2025 SUMMER SOCIAL REPORT

	INCOME		EXPENSES	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Dinners	\$42,047.48	\$40,065.00	\$15,231.81	\$12,316.28
Grand Raffle	\$72,965.00	\$73,779.00	\$15,875.00	\$15,835.06
TOTALS	\$115,012.48	\$113,884.00	\$31,106.81	\$28,151.32
YEAR BY YEAR COMPARISON SUMMARIES				
	2025	2024	2023	2022
TOTAL INCOME	\$115,012.48	\$113,884.00	\$115,469.00	\$115,469.45
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$31,106.81	\$28,151.32	\$31,063.06	\$31,368.33
NET PROFIT	\$83,905.67	\$85,732.68	\$84,405.94	\$84,101.12

MISSION OUTREACH



Be an island of mercy in
a sea of indifference.

Pope Francis

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



*Food
Pantry
Needs*

Each weekend when you participate in our food drive for the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry, you are helping to provide food for many people, especially young mothers and their children in the Evansville area! Besides canned goods, cash donations are also welcome.

WE ARE COLLECTING FOOD FOR THE FOOD PANTRY EACH WEEKEND. A JAR OF PEANUT BUTTER, A BAG OF RICE, A BOX OF CEREAL. IT IS ALL IMPORTANT.



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WE'RE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO SPONSOR A CHILD'S EDUCATION IN HAITI

Entering another person's world is something Pope Leo talks about. He calls it creating a "culture of encounter." Creating a culture of encounter doesn't just happen. It takes lots of intentional work. We have to want to make room in our life for others.

So, how do you begin to make an intentional effort to let stranger into your life? One way is to become a sponsor for one of the children of St. James Parish in Plaine du Nord, Haiti. The simple act of saying yes to this opportunity can effect the life of a young Haitian forever. The money you



give as a sponsor provides a child with school uniforms and salaries for their teachers. Students who attend our grade school and high school also get the chance to have a meal each day. For many of them, it will be the only meal they will have.

A person or family can sponsor a student for an annual cost of \$360, or just \$30 per month. This fee

helps pay for their tuition, provide a stipend for uniforms and books, helps fund the daily food program and allows the students to have access to the parish clinic.

With your help and the help of many of our other friends in the community, we currently sponsor approximately 200 students at St. Jacques elementary and high school. If you would like more information, you can contact Chad Martin, the coordinator of our student sponsorship program. (812-454-2785) or email him at seabees-great58@gmail.com

MIGRANTS: MISSIONARIES OF HOPE



With their courage and tenacity in the pursuit of happiness, migrants and refugees are messengers of hope. Their courage and tenacity bear heroic testimony to a faith that sees beyond what our eyes can

see and gives them the strength to defy death on the various contemporary migration routes. Migrants and refugees also remind the Catholic Church that she, too, is on a journey, and true citizenship is in heaven.

The current global context is sadly marked by wars, violence, injustice and extreme weather events, which force millions of people to leave their homelands in search of refuge elsewhere. The widespread tendency to look after the interests of limited communities poses a serious threat to the sharing of responsibility, multilateral cooperation, the pursuit of the common good and global solidarity for the benefit of our entire human family. The prospect of a renewed arms race and the development of new armaments, including nuclear weapons, the lack of consideration for the harmful effects of the ongoing climate crisis, and the impact of profound economic inequalities make the challenges of the present and the future increasingly demanding.

Faced with frightening scenarios and the possibility of global devastation, more people must yearn for a future of peace and respect for the dignity of everyone. Such a future is essential to God's plan for humanity and the rest of creation. God has placed the desire for happiness in the heart of every human being. In fact the search for happiness, and the prospect of finding it beyond one's place of origin, is certainly one of the main motivations for the movement of people today.

In a world darkened by war and injustice, even when all seems lost, migrants and refugees stand as messengers of hope. In a special way, Catholic migrants and refugees can become missionaries of hope in the countries that welcome them, with their spiritual enthusiasm and vitality, they can help revitalize ecclesial communities that have become rigid and weighed down, where spiritual desertification is advancing at an alarming rate.

In a special way, Catholic migrants and refugees can become missionaries of hope in the countries that welcome them. With their spiritual enthusiasm and vitality, they can help revitalize ecclesial communities that have become rigid and weighed down. The presence of Catholic migrants and refugees should be recognized and appreciated as a true divine blessing. As we are reminded in the Letter to the Hebrews, he should not to neglect showing hospitality to strangers since, through it, some have unknowingly entertained angels.

Pope Leo's Message for the Celebration of

World Day of Migrants and Refugees October 4-5.



SEPTEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
COME HELP MAKE KUCHENS SEPT. 13 7:30 AM 	1 5 AM BOOT CAMP 7:30 am Mass No Eucharistic Adoration  LABOR DAY	2 7:30 am Mass	3 5 AM BOOT CAMP 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff Meeting 12 Noon That Man is You 5:30 PM Bible Study "The Chosen" 6:45 pm	4 NO MASS	5 5 AM Boot Camp 7:30 am School Mass Communion to the Homebound	6 Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 pm 5 pm Mass Haiti and Food Pantry Collection
7 8 & 10:30 Masses Family Religion Class 9:00 am Food Pantry Collection CATHOLIC MINISTRY APPEAL KICKOFF	8 5 AM Boot Camp 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 PM Mass 7 pm Knights of St. John	9 Mass 7:30 am  THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY 6:45--8 PM	10 5 AM Boot Camp Mass 7:30 am Parish Staff Meeting 12 Noon That Man is You 5:30 PM Bible Study 6:45 pm	11 NO MASS Altar Society Meeting 6:30 pm	12 5 AM Boot Camp 7:30 am Mass Women's Bible Study Group 8:30 am Senior Citizens Gathering 1 pm Communion to the Homebound	13 Altar Society making kuchens 7:30 am Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:30 pm 5 pm Mass Food Pantry Collection Parish Bingo Evening 6 pm
14 8 & 10:30 Masses Food Pantry Collection Confirmation Session 2 11:30-1	15 5 am Boot Camp 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass 7 pm Men's Club Meeting	16 7:30 am Mass  THAT MAN IS YOU WEDNESDAY 5:30 -- 6:30 PM DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TUESDAY - 6 AM -- WEDNESDAY - 6 AM	17 5 AM Boot Camp Mass 7:30 am Parish Staff Meeting 12 Noon That Man is You 5:30 Bible Study 6:45	18 NO MASS Haiti Outreach Commission 6:30 pm PTO Meeting 6 pm	19 5 AM Boot Camp 7:30 am Mass Women's Bible Study Group 8:30 am Communion to the Homebound	20 Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:30 pm 5 pm Mass Food Pantry Collection
21 8 & 10:30 Masses RCIA introductory Meeting 9-10:15am Food Pantry Collection	22 5:00 am Boot Camp 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 PM Mass	23 7:30 am Mass	24 5 AM Boot Camp 7:30 am MASS With Grandparents Parish Staff Meeting 12 Noon That Man is You 5:30 Bible Study 6:45	25 NO MASS	26 5 AM Boot Camp 7:30 am School Mass Women's Bible Study Group 8:30 am Communion to the Homebound	27 5 pm Mass Food Pantry Collection College Care Packages Available this weekend
28 8 & 10:30 am Masses Family Religion Class 9:00 am RCIA 9-10:15 am Food Pantry Collection	29 5 AM Boot Camp 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 PM Mass	30 7:30 am Mass  JOIN US FOR A FAMILY FUN NIGHT BINGO--APPETIZERS--DRINKS				
				 HAVE YOU MADE YOUR PLEDGE TO OUR CMA CAMPAIGN? Parish Goal \$132,270. No Gift is too Large or too Small		

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WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday—5 PM

Sunday—8 & 10:30 AM

Fr. Gene Schroeder—Pastor

E-mail gschroeder@evdio.org

Ms. Kristan Gilles—Director of Liturgy

E-mail kgilles@evdio.org

Mrs. Kelsey Meier—Principal

E-mail kmeier@evdio.org

Mrs. Julie Kempf—Secretary

E-mail jkempf@evdio.org

Mrs. Jessica Reckelhoff

Religious Education Coordinator

E-mail jreckelhoff@evdio.org



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(Continued from page 1)

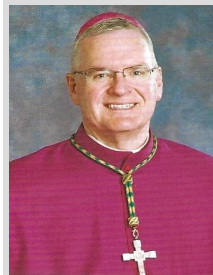
DOING OUR PART THROUGH THE CMA (cont.)

Yes, it's a great challenge to extend the ownership we feel in our own parish to the larger Catholic Church, in particular, the Diocese of Evansville, and, in fact, to the whole Universal Catholic Church. But remember this: providing for the financial support of our Diocese is not something new. We've been doing it for the past 183 years of the life of our parish.

Just as we do at St. Joe, Bishop Siegel and those who run our diocesan offices know how important it is to be good stewards of the money they receive. This year our share of the cost of running the diocese is \$131,040. Essentially, this is a "bill" we owe the diocese. Should our CMA collection fall short, we would need to take money from our general fund to pay whatever wasn't paid. So, you can see why it's important to reach our goal.

Last year 66% of our parish families joined in making an average pledge of \$382.00 to our CMA campaign. I'm confident that they will want to help out again by making a pledge again this year.

Last year 34% of our parish families were not in a position to financially support our CMA campaign. My prayer is that the circumstances in their lives have changed so that they too can join our common effort. I am confident that if these families will join efforts made by those who have supported the CPC in



Dear friends,

I am grateful for the opportunity to write to you and express my thanks for the support you give to the Diocese of Evansville's Catholic Ministry Appeal Campaign over many years. Over the years, the people of St. Joseph Parish have made possible much good work that is done in our diocese.

Your pledge, joined with the pledges of thousands of your fellow Catholics who are helping to grow the ministries of the Diocese of Evansville. These ministries reach beyond your parish boundary and impact the lives of countless people in the twelve counties of southwest Indiana and throughout the world.

With St. Joseph, I give thanks for the many ways you continue to bless your parish and our diocese by your faithful stewardship.

Joseph M. Siegel

Rev. Joseph Siegel Bishop of Evansville

the past, we will be able to meet our parish goal of \$131,040.

Sunday, September 7th is the kick-off for our CMA campaign this year. As we have done in the past, you will receive a letter inviting you to participate in our CMA. Please take some time to think and pray about how God is asking you to help. do the work He has given to all of us. May the example of St. Joseph fill us with confidence and courage to share our money so that God's work can be done. Together we can make great things happen our parish and throughout our diocese.

