

ST. JOSEPH

PARISH

Vanderburgh County

www.stjoeco.org

*A community of joyful, active,
faith-filled people who give thanks to
God by generously sharing their
individual gifts and talents to serve the
needs of all.*

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday—5 PM

Sunday—8 & 10:30 AM

SACRAMENT OF
RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY 4-4:30 PM

PARISH OFFICE

6202 W. Saint Joseph Road
Evansville, IN 47720

SCHOOL

6130 W. Saint Joseph Road
Evansville IN 47720

Parish Office: 963-3273

School: 963-3335

School Fax: 963-3335

Prayer Chain: 963-3149

Parish Staff

Fr. Gene Schroeder—Pastor

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Melba Wilderman—Principal

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Mrs. Becky Doshier

School Secretary

E-mail bdoshier@evdio.org

Mrs. Amy Meyer

Sacramental Preparation



December 25, 2011 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Dear friends,

Merry Christmas. The Good news of Christmas is that the Word became Flesh and continues to make his dwelling in the lives of all Christians today. Thank you for sharing your gifts—of leadership, service, faithfulness and prayerfulness. Thank you for sharing yourself with the people of St. Joseph Parish. May peace, joy and goodness fill your life at Christmas and in the New Year.

Fr. Gene Schroeder

P.S. We now have a drop-off box installed by the front door of the rectory. You can use this as we did the mail box at the old rectory, to drop off items for the parish office when no one is in the office. Special thanks to Jim Scheller for installing this drop off box!

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS SCHEDULE

FEAST OF MARY

THE MOTHER OF GOD

NEW YEAR'S EVE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

MASS at 5 pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

MASS AT 8 AND 10:30 AM

CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS *fr. Richard Rohr, ofm* SOMEONE TO SURRENDER TO

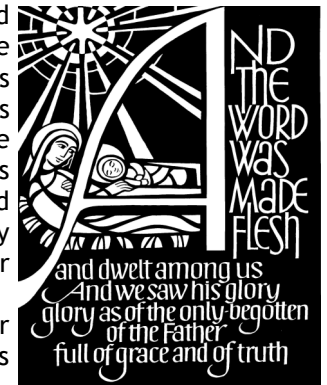


On this Christmas Day, let me begin with a quote from twentieth-century writer G.K. Chesterton: "When a person has found something he prefers to life itself, he for the first time has begun to live." Jesus in his proclamation of the kingdom told us that we could prefer life itself—and it would work! The Bible ends by telling us we are called to be a people who could say, "Come Lord Jesus." (Revelation 22:20), who could welcome something more than business as usual and live in God's Big Picture. We all have to ask for the grace to prefer something to our small life itself because we have been offered the shared Life, the One Life, the Eternal Life, God's life that became visible in this world in Jesus. We do not get there by being correct. We get there by allowing the connection. It is like "free wireless" connection!

The Kingdom is finally to be identified as the Lord Jesus himself. When we say "Come Lord Jesus," on this Christmas Day, we are preferring his Lordship to any other loyalty system or any other final frame of reference. If Jesus is Lord, than Caesar is not! If Jesus is Lord, that the economy and stock market are not! If Jesus is Lord, than my house and possessions, family and job are not! If Jesus is Lord, than I am not! That multileveled implication was obvious to first-century members of the Roman Empire because the phrase "Caesar is Lord," was the empire's loyalty test and political bumper sticker. They, and others, knew they had changed "parties" when they welcomed Jesus as Lord instead of the Roman emperor as their savior.

What we are searching for is Someone to surrender to, something we can prefer to life itself. Well, here is the wonderful surprise: God is the only one we can surrender to without losing ourselves. The irony is that we find ourselves and now in a whole new field of meaning. This happens on a lesser level in every great love in our lifetime, but it is always a leap of faith ahead of time. We are never sure it will be true beforehand. It is surely counter-intuitive, but it is the promise that came into the world on this Christmas Day, "full of grace and of truth." Jesus is the gift totally given, free for the taking, once and for all, to everybody and all of creation. This Cosmic Risen Christ really is *free wireless* and all we have to do is connect,

Henceforth, humanity has the right to know that it is good to be human, good to live on this earth, good to have a body because God, in Jesus chose and said "yes" to our humanity. Or as we Franciscans love to say, "Incarnation is already Redemption." The problem I solved. Now go and utterly enjoy all remaining days. Not only is it "Always Advent," but everyday can now be Christmas because the one we thought we were just waiting for has come *once and for all*.



CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
4:00 PM CHRISTMAS MASS
WITH CHILDREN

Christmas Flower
Memorials

9:00 PM CHRISTMAS
MIDNIGHT MASS

Christmas Flower Memorials

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

9:00 AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Christmas Flower Memorials

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

Saint Stephen

6:30 PM Margaret Witt (1872), Margaret Tenbarger (1902), Philip Bender (1920), Lorine Kissel (2000)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

Saint John

7:30 AM John Will (1879)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

The Holy Innocents

NO MASS Magdalena Fisher (1914), Reinildes Botzum (2000), Madeline Rexing (2009), Joseph A. Elpers (2009)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

The Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas

NO MASS Infant Kohl (1871), John Kircher (1872), Friderich Schmitt (1892), Ed Rexing (1984)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:30 AM Sr. Wilfrida O.S.F. (Agatham Ludovicum Mayer, 1888), Kaspar Goelzhausen (1896), Charles Alsop (1981), Estella Ubelhor (2009)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

THE FEAST OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD

5:00 PM Frank & Theresa Maurer, T.P.Lewis, Valada Martin, Leona Barrett, Boobie & Bettye Maurer, Agnes & Vernon Dezember, Mary Hillenbrand, Elisabeth Comings, (1880), Olivia Schapker (1994)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

THE FEAST OF MARY
THE MOTHER OF GOD

8:00 AM Clarence & Catherine Miller, Dennis and Bernadette Jean, Kevin Maurer, Val Pfaffman

10:30 AM Edna Turner, Robert Niemeier, Anna Herrmann (1872), Francis Wolf (1874), Adam Wolf (1895), Mary Effinger (1919), Barbara Hoefling (1924)



STEWARDSHIP: *The Lord's Way*

The shepherds who heard the joyous news from the angels on the first Christmas night and then hurried to find the infant Savior must surely have been changed by that experience.

How has His coming changed my life?



DECEMBER 18, 2011	\$ 16,014.50
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$ 18,400.00
TOTAL INCOME TO DATE	\$ 419,632.83
BUDGET TO DATE	\$ 460,000.00
MAINTENANCE COLLECTION	\$ 30.00
CHILDRENS COLLECTION	\$ 10.93

YOUNG STEWARDS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE COLLECTION LAST WEEK: Melissa Blythe, Connor Brown, Jordan & Addison Elpers, Rakyln Hays, Isabella Lagunzad, Kameryn McGehee, Maisy Seib, Landon & Hannah Smith, Lauren Voelker, Brandon Werner, Christiana Wolfe

RAISING THE ROOF FUND

DECEMBER 18, 2011	\$ 123.00
TOTAL TO DATE	\$ 362,294.18

MISSION OUTREACH

HAITI	\$ 195.00
HAITI HIGHER EDUCATION PROJECT	\$ 1,815.00
HAITI SPECIAL PROJECTS	\$ 100.00
NEEDY FUND	\$ 50.00
RETIRED RELIGIOUS COLLECTION	\$ 25.00

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL AND NURSING HOMES

DEACONESS GATEWAY: *John Bergwitz*

ST. MARY'S MEDICAL CENTER: *Brently Beudel, Ryan Fehrenbacher*

HERITAGE: *Myrna Craney*

WEST RIVER: *Larry Ubelhor*

PINE HAVEN: *Brenda Koester*

SOLARBRON TERRACE: *Valeria Elpers, Clarence and Mildred Rexing,*

NORTH PARK NURSING CENTER: *Norm Moutoux*

BRENTWOOD: *Edgar Hartz*

CYPRUS REHABILITATION CENTER: *Larry Hoefling*

WOODRIDGE HEALTH & REHABILITATION: *Joan Roberts*

Dec. 25: Theresa Chapman, Donna Lincoln, Zach Zirkelbach

Dec. 26: Katie Gibbs, Antoinette Happe, Brian Price, Chase Waninger, Lori Wolf

Dec. 27: Kierstin Buedel, Mike Maurer, Scott Parker, Dawson Pfaffmann

Dec. 28: Delores Schroeder, Jay Busan, Mike Burk, Rebecca Kelley, Lynn Kiesel, Reed Luecke, Ethan Mayer, Brant Rexing

Dec. 29: Terry Drone, Randy Fehrenbacher, Scott Turner, Vanessa Vanbibber

Dec. 30: Jean Brown, Stan Love, Taylor Mayer, Brady Sellers

Dec. 31: Diane Bassemier, Becky Muensterman, Stephanie Purcell

Dec. 26: Norman & Kay Moutoux, Chris & Sharon Moutoux

Dec. 27: Chuck & Ann Effinger

Dec. 28: Hank & June Preske

Dec. 30: Joe & Kathy Weber

Dec. 31: Jason & Wendy Miller

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



HAITI WATER PROJECT MATCHING GRANT UPDATE

MATCHING GRANT \$5,000
RAISED TO DATE \$5,239 WOW!!!!

We are still accepting contributions. All the money will be used to install water filter systems on the community wells in Plaine du Nord. Put your contributions in the collection



WHO WILL BE PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS THIS WEEK?



MONDAY: 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration
TUESDAY: 7 pm Choir Practice
WEDNESDAY: 7 pm Marian Prayer Group
SATURDAY & SUNDAY: Haiti & Food Pantry Collections

**THIS
WEEK**

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

(EM=Eucharistic Minister, S=Servers, L=Lector, GB=Giftbearers, G=Greeters)

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 & JANUARY 1

5:00 PM Jeanne Freeman, Lauren Niemeier, Dolores Sudholt, Kathy Cook, Don Werner (EM), Lindsey Deig (S), Bernette Locklar (L), Jim & Janice Herr (GB)

8:00 AM Tom & Delores Folz, Al Debes, Michael Elpers, Ann Craney (EM), Gabe Gries (S), Donna Blankenberger (L), Dan & Mary Ruth Lasher (GB), Tom Blythe Family (G)

10:30 AM Don Schroeder, Emily Tenbarga, Darlene Appler, Becky Doshier, Bill Duncan (EM), Abby & Ashlynn Shane (S), Dolores Schroeder (L), Pat & Shari Kempf (GB), John & Diane Bassemier (G)

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH SKI TRIP--JANUARY 13

Information and permission forms have gone home. If you did not receive information, contact Sharon Vogler 963-3273 or email svogler@evdio.org.



--Buy SCRIP after Mass--

SCRIP WORKER SCHEDULE

Sat. 12/31, 5 pm: *Melissa Gillenwater & Missy Singer

Sun. 1/1, 8 am: Becky Ondash & *Bridget Pfaffmann

Sun. 1/1, 10:30 am: Keri Hartz & *Cassie Mayer

A New Year's Day Prayer

What lies concealed from my sight among the days and hours of this new year...The year ahead....

What "causes" have I started that will take form and shape as the days unpeel....

What new good awaits in Embryo for the nourishing Substance of my faith.....

I live in the Now...And yet, threads of thought trail into the past, and extend into the future....

Am I but a cork bobbing hither and yon on the stream of Life: Or is there that in me, Or of me, that can give direction and meaning?

O Christ indwelling, Thou Art my Direction and Director! Take my tangled threads of thought and weave of them a year my Soul has been longing for....

...the year in which The vain, prideful little "me" is swallowed up In Thee!

—Charles Roth

Dec. 31: St. Wendel Knights of St. John New Year's Eve Dance, doors open at 8 pm, \$15 /couple, \$10 /single reservations call Gregg Kissel at 499-8531

AROUND TOWN

Dec. 31: St. James (Haubstadt) New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance, \$50/couple, \$25/single, call 205-9500 **FRIDAY NIGHTS BEGINNING JAN. 13:** Beginning Square Dance Lessons with the River City Square Dancers, 7-9 pm, ages 13 and older, for full details call 812-567-4485

IT'S GOOD TO DO BUSINESS WITH OUR BULLETIN/NEWSLETTER ADVERTISERS

Fifty-five area businesses support our parish each week by taking an ad in our bulletin and newsletter. Their generosity enables us to publish our bulletin each week and publish and mail our newsletter each month.

This year we welcome three new advertisers: Logsdon's Restaurant in Boonville, owned and operated by Mike and Chris Dewitt and their parents Dave and Rose Dewitt, Altstadt Plumbing with Chip Altstadt, one of our parishioners as one of the owners, and Flowers and More located on West Franklin Street run by Bob Jacobs. It's a great time to say "thanks" to them and to support them by taking advantage of the services they offer!



**1206 E. Main Street
Boonville, IN 47601
812-897-8813**



**Altstadt
PLUMBING SERVICE**

812-329-2524

CREATING A LIVING LEGACY FOR OUR PARISH

Normally, a distribution from your IRA is taxed as ordinary income. However, tax legislation just enacted extends the opportunity throughout 2011 for individuals 70½ or older to make a direct distribution from your IRA to a qualified charity, such as your parish or an endowment. Such qualified direct distributions to charity from your IRA are not subject to income tax! For information on how to add to an existing endowment or if you are considering creating your own Catholic Legacy, please contact the Parish office (963-3273)



Please remember in your prayers *Kevin Maurer*, the brother of Kelly Maurer and *Robert Niemeier*, the brother of Harold Niemeier and step-father of Steve Elliot who died this past week. May they both know the fullness of life and peace in God's kingdom and may God's peace be with all Kelly, Harold and Steve and all the members of their family and friends.

IT'S LOTTERY TIME St. Joe Monthly **First Drawing in January** Lottery Tickets are now available. **Do you have your tickets?**

Cost is \$75. If you need a ticket, contact the parish office. (963-3273) Tickets are now on sale for the

The TRADITION annual "Buy a Ticket for the Tradition" Lottery. Each ticket is \$100. For tickets call Parish office at 963-3273.

