

# 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

#### 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

E-mail gschroeder@evdio.org

Julie Kempf—Secretary

E-mail jkempf@evdio.org

Sharon Vogler—DRE

E-mail svogler@evdio.org

Kristan Gilles

Director of Liturgy

E-mail kgilles@evdio.org

Melba Wilderman—Principal

E-mail mwilderman@evdio.org

Mrs. Becky Doshier

School Secretary

E-mail bdoshier@evdio.org

Mrs. Amy Meyer

Sacramental Preparation

Mr. Dave Richter—School Janitor

E-mail drichter@evdio.org



September 11, 2011 THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## GOD AND VIOLENCE

Fr. Ron Rohlfse, OMC

God is non-violent. God does not

prescribe violence. Violence should never be rationalized in God's name. That is

clear in Christian revelation. But that immediately poses the question: What about the violence in scripture that is attributed to God or to God's direct orders?

Doesn't God, in anger, wipe out the entire human race, save for Noah and his family? Doesn't God ask Abraham to kill Isaac on an altar of sacrifice? Doesn't Moses have to talk God out of destroying Israel because God is angry? Didn't God give an order to Israel to kill everybody and everything (men, women, children, and even the animals) as she entered the Promised Land? Didn't the Mosaic Law, attributed to God, prescribe stoning women to death for adultery? Didn't Jesus kick over the tables of the money-changers in anger? And what about all the wars and capital punishment that have been done in God's name through the centuries? What about extremist Islam today, killing thousands of people in God's name? God, it seems, has prescribed and sanctioned a lot of violence and killing from ancient time right down until today. How do we explain all the violence attributed to God?

Two things need to be kept in mind: First: Whenever scripture speaks about God as being offended, as getting angry, as wanting to wreak vengeance on his enemies, or as demanding that we kill somebody in his name, it is speaking anthropomorphically, that is, it is taking our own thoughts, feelings, and reactions and projecting them into God. We get angry, God doesn't. Our hearts crave vengeance, God's heart doesn't. We demand that murderers be executed, God doesn't. Scripture contains a lot of anthropomorphisms that make for a bad and a dangerous theology if read and understood literally. To read parts of scripture literally is to turn God into a tribal God in competition with other gods.

When scripture says that we experience God's wrath when we sin, it doesn't want us to believe that God actually gets angry and punishes us. There's no need. The punishment is innate, inherent in the sin itself. When we sin it is our own actions that punish us (the way excessive use of alcohol dehydrates the brain and the dehydration causes a headache). We may feel that the punishment as coming from God, from God's anger, from God's wrath, but it is nature's wrath and our own that we are feeling. God has no need to extrinsically punish sin because sin already punishes itself. Nature is so constructed. There is a law of karma. Sin is its own punishment.

But at the level of feeling, this is felt as if God is punishing us. However, as Jesus shows in forgiving his own killers and forgiving everyone who betrayed him, God forgives sin. God has no need for vengeance or for a justice that extracts a pound of flesh for a pound of sin. Nature already does that. Indeed, given a proper understanding of God's nature and transcendence, it is presumptuous on our part to even believe that we can "offend" God. More important still, the biblical texts that attribute violence to God are also archetypal, namely, they are texts that teach us things about the deep rhythms of the human heart but are not meant to be taken literally. Taken literally, they are often the very antithesis of the revelation of God.

But still what do we do with the biblical texts that prescribe violence to God? For instance, how can we interpret God's ordering Israel to kill all the Canaanites as she entered the Promised Land?

In archetypal stories, killing is metaphorical not literal. It's about a death inside the heart. God's command to kill all the inhabitants of Canaan is simply a hard metaphor for what Jesus refers to when he says that you have to put new wine into new wineskins so that the new wine will not burst the old skins. Anyone who has gone through a 12-step addiction program knows what it means to have to kill all the Canaanites. To move into the promised land of sobriety and remain there, something hard and cruel needs to happen that can't happen through half-measures: To move into the promised land of sobriety, you have to clean out ("kill") your entire liquor cabinet, all the "Canaanites": All the beer, scotch, bourbon, rum, vodka, wine, cognac, and brandy, every ounce of alcohol has to go. If you allow yourself even one drink you will eventually lose your sobriety.

Virtually every text in the bible which ascribes violence to God or puts into his mouth a command to do violence needs to be read in that same way. The violence and killing are metaphorical, even as the text is asking the heart to do something which cannot be a half-measure. Walter Brueggemann once commented that "God is in recovery from all the violence that has been attributed to him and done in his name." It's time that the churches entered the same recovery process

**THANKS FOR ALL YOUR  
HARD WORK AT OUR  
PARISH RUMMAGE SALE!**

IT IS NOT TO LATE TO REGISTER  
FOR OUR SUNDAY MORNING  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES  
CONTACT SHARIN VOGLER (963-3273)



Win this Polaris Ranger XP or \$8,000  
2nd PRIZE Big Green Egg Cooker-Smoker-Grill  
Tickets on sale now \$20 3/\$50 7/\$100  
Contact any member of the St. Joe Men's Club  
or the Parish Office Drawing: October 23





# CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 PM Eveyln Weis, Albert Martin, Louis & Catherine Swain, Joseph Schenk (1871), Elisabeth Bender (1924)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM William E. Martin, Jerome Schneider, George Moll, Mary Baumeyer

10:30 AM Helen Weber, Herman & Emily Elpers, Barbara Erbacher (1881), Hildebrand Frank (1882), Francis Forstel (1886), Joseph Hillenbrand (1923), Clement Ritter (1973)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Weekday

6:30 PM Florentina & Albert Gries, John Warren, Andreas Laugel (1878), Andrea Baumgart (1891), A. Joseph Schenk (1895), Maria Weiss (1872), Philip Frehaut (1875)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Saint John Chrysostom

7:30 AM Bernard & Mary Drone, Henry Werner (1871), Barbara Martin (1876), Alphonse Baehl (1958), Blondina Ritter (1968), Raymond Steckler (1977), Judith Jones (2002)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

7:30 AM Frank & Theresa Arnold, Ed Arnold, Brian Fuchs, Regina Frank (1900), Anton Baehl (1901)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Our Lady of Sorrows

NO MASS Matthias Baehl (1877), Joan Urich (1898), Nancy Niemeier (1968)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Saint Cornelius and Saint Cyprian

7:30 AM Carlos Romero, Peter Ziliak (1858), Maria Lang (1862), Catharine Helderich (1870), Anton Rexing (1883), Maria Hartlein (1893), Virgil Brown (1947), Duane Quinlin (1994)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 PM Dennis Weis, Robert Jenkins, Paul Straub, Robert Straub, Edward Weiss, Valentine Schenk (1864), Infant Schluter (1864), Mat-  
taeus Hartlein (1871)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Clarence & Catherine Miller, John and Mary Ruth Toy  
10:30 AM Jerome Muensterman, Mark Paul, Wayne & Alice Stephan, George Folz (1957), Lorena Koch (1994)

Thanks....to all the wonderful people who were there to help us through our sad loss. May God reward you all in a special way.

*~The Family of Elmer Schapker*



## BBQ BENEFIT for Habitat for Humanity

Slabs of Ribs \$20 or Smoked Butts \$23  
Barbecue Sandwiches \$4 Pork Sandwiches \$5

Call 423-5623 to order Pick-up and pay Saturday, September 17  
CVS Pharmacy (Lynch & Oak Hill)

## STEWARDSHIP: *The Lord's Way*

Stewardship is not optional! "None of us lives as his own master and none of us dies as his own master," says St. Paul. "While we live we are responsible to the Lord, and when we die we die as his servants."



|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| SEPTEMBER 4, 2011      | \$ 12,545.60  |
| WEEKLY BUDGET          | \$ 18,400.00  |
| TOTAL INCOME TO DATE   | \$ 150,323.47 |
| BUDGET TO DATE         | \$ 184,000.00 |
| MAINTENANCE COLLECTION | \$ 25.00      |
| CHILDRENS COLLECTION   | \$ 8.31       |

**YOUNG STEWARDS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE COLLECTION LAST WEEK:** Melissa Blythe, Conner Brown, Kurt, Trent & Paige Denning, Abby Elpers, Addison, Jordan & Brendan Elpers, Piper Fehrenbacher, Gretchen, Heidi, Kurt & Karl Forcum, Rakyn Hays, Jessica Kelley

### RAISING THE ROOF FUND

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| SEPTEMBER 4, 2011 | \$ 291.77     |
| TOTAL TO DATE     | \$ 358,867.87 |


### MISSION OUTREACH

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| HAITI                          | \$ 791.00   |
| HAITI WATER PROJECT            | \$ 6,031.64 |
| HAITI STUDENTS                 | \$ 2,500.00 |
| CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY COLLECTION | \$ 5.00     |

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

DEACONESS: *Betty Horak*  
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*

September 11: Dolores Elpers, Jim Harl, Carolyn Hutchison, Matthew McDonald, David Whalen **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

September 12: Bob Fehrenbacher, River Luecke, Sarah Parker, Dave Schmitt 

September 13: Cathy Crowdus, Pauline Elpers, Juliet Gibson, Jeff Hoefling, Brandon Johnson, Laura Raben, JD Wargel, Todd Wingert, Lynnsey Zirkelbach

September 14: Matthew Gumbel, Alexander Miller, Neacie Singleton

September 15: Mike Forcum, Finlee Hite

September 16: Lee Askins, Curt Lannert, Lauren Niemeier, Judi Raben, Brian Schu

September 17: Tara Oakley, Isaac Daza, Garland Hermann, Gage Johnson, Lauren Lincoln, Lisa McIntosh, Iric Singer, Mary Stratman

September 11: Dan & Mary Ruth Lasher

September 12: Al & Janet Debes, Joe & Mary Mayer **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**



September 13: John & Jane Luigs

September 17: Fran & Shirley Happe

### Catholic Build for Habitat September 6-October 8

The 2011 Catholic Build for Habitat for Humanity of Evansville is scheduled for September 6- October 8. Our partner family this year is Brittany Connon. To volunteer on this year's Catholic build, go to [www.evansvillehabitat.org](http://www.evansvillehabitat.org) and sign up or contact Dave Spaetti at 963-6175 or [daks0@insightbb.com](mailto:daks0@insightbb.com). You may also send financial contributions for this build to the parish office. Mark them for "Catholic Habitat Build"



**MONDAY:** 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration  
7 pm Knights of St. John  
**TUESDAY:** 6 pm SPRED Catechists  
7 pm Choir Practice  
**WEDNESDAY:** 7 pm Marian Prayer Group  
**THURSDAY:** 7 pm Outreach Commission Meeting  
**SATURDAY & SUNDAY:** Haiti & Food Pantry Collections  
**SUNDAY:** 9-10:15 am Religious Education Student Classes  
9-10:15 am RCIA  
1-6 pm Diocesan Youth Day at Catholic Center

**THIS WEEK**

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE**

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

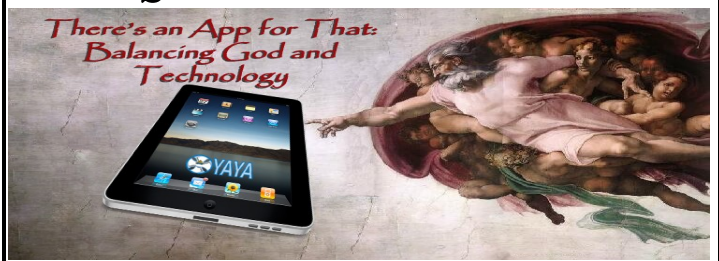
**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 & 18**

**5:00 PM** Ron & Margaret Angermeier, Bob & Mary Kay Fehrenbacher, Sarah Slaton (EM), Lindsey Deig (S), Missy Singer (L), Lee & Toni Askins (GB)

**8:00 AM** Terry Drone, Richard & Imogene Baehl, Randy Fehrenbacher, Ann Craney (EM), Adam Elpers (S), Jessie Kelley (L), Mike & Ann Ennis Family (GB), John & Ruby Manger (G)

**10:30 AM** Cara Kuester, Megan Schneider, Doris Taylor, Diane Bassemier, June Beverly (EM), Drew Wiley, Amelia Duncan (S), Olivia Deweese (L), Todd Powers Family (GB), Ron Eickhoff Family (G)

**--Religious Education News--**



**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH...** Diocese of Evansville High School Youth Rally, speaker Chris Stefanick (<http://christefanick.com/>), a few hundred high school youth from around the Diocese of Evansville finding a balance between our highly technological lives and God. Yeah, there's an "app" for that. An afternoon of games and fun with friends. Snack foods will be available. The afternoon will end with Mass with Bishop Charles Thompson. **WHEN:** Sunday, Sept. 18, 1-6:30 pm CDT, **WHERE:** Catholic Center, Evansville, **COST:** \$10 per person, **CONTACT:** Registration (Diocesan Waiver/Release form) and payment due to Sharon Vogler.

**BALLROOM DANCING CLASS** St. Joe's fall dance class



will begin Monday, October 10, from 6:45-7:45 p.m. for Beginners and from 8-9 p.m. for Advanced (assumes basic knowledge of steps) in the multi-purpose building. The Waltz and East Coast Rumba will be taught over a 9-week period. Cost is still \$45/couple, which is all a donation to St. Joe. Go to [www.stjoeco.org](http://www.stjoeco.org) to print a flier. Questions? Call Joe and Kathy Weber at 963-9247.

**--St. Joe School News--**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED...** The St. Joe PTO needs your help! We are looking for volunteers to help out during lunch and recess at school. Help is needed daily from 10:30 am-noon. If you are able to help, or have questions, please contact Carrie Fehrenbacher by email [cfehrenbacher@yahoo.com](mailto:cfehrenbacher@yahoo.com) or call 812-204-8252.

**BUY SCRIP AFTER MASS**

**SCRIP WORKER SCHEDULE**

Sat. 9/17, 5 pm: Karen McDonald & \*Julianna Voelker  
Sun. 9/18, 8 am: Becky Ondash & \*Stephanie Frey  
Sun. 9/18, 10:30 am: \*Rebecca Whitehouse & Julie Forcum

**Give a child a chance... Sponsor a student in our sister parish in Haiti**

Children in Haiti need someone to sponsor them this year through our Haitian Student Sponsorship Program. The need in Haiti is enormous and these sponsorships are enabling children to continue their educations, receive food and other necessities, as well as some health care.

If anyone is interested in answering the call to Help God's children, you can contact Kim Spaetti, (963-6175), Linda Feulner (963-6939) or Diane Bassemier (963-3203) for more information on sponsoring a child.



**MAKING A GIFT TO OUR PARISH THROUGH AN IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER**

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) or the Catholic Foundation at 812-424-5536 or email [lcox@evdio.org](mailto:lcox@evdio.org). Thank you for your generosity to your Parish!

**COME JOIN THE FUN AT THESE SUMMER SOCIALS!**

- September 10, 11 St. Wendel
- September 11 St. Bernard, Snake Run
- September 11 St. Mary Ireland
- September 18 St. John Daylight
- September 18 Sacred Heart Schnellville
- September 25 Holy Family
- October 2 St. Raphael Dubois
- October 2 St. Martin Chrisney



**IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED A COPY OF OUR NEW PARISH DIRECTORY AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ONE, CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE**