



The MESSAGE

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Father Dietsch celebrates 'God's gift to me'

BY TIM LILLEY
The Message Editor

Father Bill Dietsch, senior priest of the Diocese of Evansville, concelebrated Mass Dec. 19 at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Daylight to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination, which occurred Dec. 18, 1971. He noted that the Mass at St. John Daylight fell on the 50th anniversary of the first Mass he celebrated as an ordained priest.

"I am grateful for all of you who came out today," he said, "and I am grateful for all the gifts of God I have received over the years. The priesthood — my service — is not my gift to God. It is God's gift to me."

After graduating from Mater Dei High School in Evansville, Father Bill, a native of Snake Run in Gibson County, served in the U.S. Navy from 1961 to 1964. He recalled feeling the first calls to his priestly vocation in the Navy.

"In 1961, I asked permission to leave duty to attend Midnight Mass," he recalled, "and I ended up on the phone

with the commander. He said, 'If anyone but Dietsch would have made that request, I would have said no.'

"When I arrived for Midnight Mass, the greeter asked me if I knew Latin, which I did. It turned out that they needed a server who knew Latin." He said incidents like that helped him to see God's plan for his life.

Father Bill talked a lot about his service — and the service of those who give back so much to him and all priests.

"I went to visit a woman who was a shut-in, and she was in a very bad place. She had lost a son and her husband, and she was very sad. She asked me to anoint her, which I did. The next time I went to visit, she was a totally new person. She told me that she was 'ready to go home.' That made me realize how much we serve our people as priests.

"What you should know is that I was not the cause of her transformation. I was the implement. I have thought about what the real meaning

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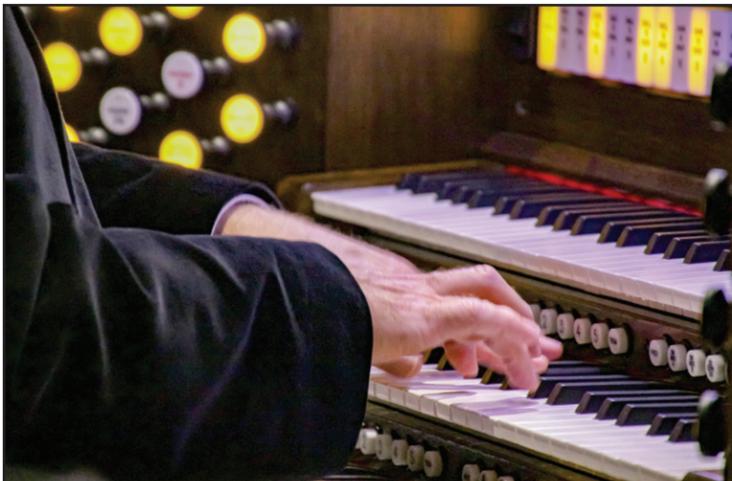


The Message photo by Tim Lilley

People from across the Diocese of Evansville attended the 7 a.m. Mass at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Daylight to help Father Bill Dietsch, senior priest of the diocese, celebrate the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination. Father Bill noted that the Mass fell on the 50th anniversary of the first Mass he celebrated following ordination.

Precious Blood Parish dedicates new organ

BY TIM LILLEY
The Message editor



The Message photos by Tim Lilley

The Rodgers Infinity 361-11 organ features a vast array of digital samples that enable organists to select from voicings that include pipe organs, woodwinds, strings and even voices.



The Precious Blood Parish choir joined guest performer Rodney Barbour for the hymns that opened and closed the Jan. 2 concert — "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" and "Joyful Joyful, We Adore Thee," respectively.

Bagpipes, bells, strings and woodwinds filled the sanctuary of Precious Blood Church in Jasper Jan. 2 — but there was only one performer, and he played a keyboard.

Precious Blood Parish hosted a free concert Jan. 2 to dedicate its new organ. Rodney Barbour of West Chester, Ohio, served as guest performer for the concert, which featured songs focusing on Christmas and the Epiphany.

Precious Blood pastor Father Brian Emmick welcomed the audience and led a prayer and blessing of the sophisticated instrument.

Precious Blood received the new organ thanks to generous funding from the United Cabinet Foundation, which was established by Stan and MaryJane Krempp.

The old organ, which had served Precious Blood well for many years, had effectively reached the end of its useful life. The parish had professionals evaluate the instrument, and the evaluation revealed the need to replace a number of parts that were no longer available. As a result, it was not possible to return that organ to its original level of performance.

About the new organ

The donated organ is a three-manual Rodgers Infinity 361-11 with a standard oak finish. The innovative digital organ has five divisions and Antiphonal: Great, Swell, Choir, Solo, and Pedal. Tom Magee, President of Classic Organs of Indiana, Inc., from which the organ was purchased, installed a 12-channel full-range stereo audio system, including ampli-

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ICC ready to add voice to issues, legislation at 2022 General Assembly



BY VICTORIA ARTHUR
Statehouse correspondent for
Indiana's Catholic newspapers

As lawmakers returned to the Statehouse in Indianapolis this week to begin a new legislative session, the Indiana Catholic Conference stood ready to speak on the key issues of the day, always standing in solidarity with the most vulnerable.

The 123rd Indiana General Assembly opened for business Jan. 4 for a short, non-budget-year session that is expected to wrap up by mid-March. State lawmakers will introduce and debate a flurry of bills on a wide range of topics. And as it has for the past 55 years, the ICC will weigh in on important legislation while engaging as many Catholics as possible in the process.

"The ICC is the public policy voice for the Catholic Church in the state of Indiana," said Angela Espada, executive director of the ICC. "Simply put, we advocate either for or against proposed legislation in line with the long and rich history of Catholic social teaching."

Espada explained that promoting the common good and protecting the most vulnerable members of society form the basis for the Church's engagement in the public arena.

"If you look at the issues that politics hits on, much of it has to do with immigration, education, whether to have a social safety net and how far that net expands, and respect for life," Espada said. "All of these are issues that the

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Gail and Tom Shetler, left, of Evansville visit with Father Bill Dietsch after the Dec. 18 Mass at St. John Daylight.



The Message photos by Tim Lilley
Deacon Richard Liebundguth, left, bows as Father Chris Forler, pastor of St. John Daylight, receives a blessing from Father Bill Dietsch during Mass Dec. 18.

Thanks from Father Bill

Following the Mass, Father Bill contacted **The Message** with words of thanks for all those involved in the celebration:

"I want to publicly thank everyone involved with the celebration of my 50th anniversary of priestly ordination. The Mass and reception after were wonderful, and the outpouring of messages, cards and gifts from across our diocese was truly humbling. It was a very good day, and I am truly grateful to everyone."

Dietsch

Continued from page 1

of the priesthood is, and I believe it is service."

Father Bill was quick to shift

focus to the people. He said, "It is amazing how much the community of people we serve give back to us.

"We priests need your affirmation and support, and I have received that from every

one of you here today. Without you, we're lost as priests."

Father Bill served parishes across the Diocese of Evansville from 1972 through 2008, and he also served many years as chaplain at what is now

known as Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Evansville.

St. John Daylight pastor Father Chris Forler talked about that as he opened the Mass. He said, "It is a great joy to celebrate the 4th Sunday

of Advent and the 50th anniversary of Father Bill's priestly ordination. We truly appreciate all you did for the people of the diocese throughout your ministry."

At the conclusion of Mass, Father Chris asked his brother priest for a blessing.

Organ

Continued from page 1

fiers and all external speakers, to afford the best sound for listeners. These speakers were spread around the church so as to make greatest use of space and musical forces.

Magee has represented Rodgers organs in central Indiana for almost 40 years, and he has owned Classic Organs of Indiana for 33 years. His career has included work on organs for St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville, St. Mary Parish in Ireland and Holy Family Parish in Jasper. The new organ at Precious Blood has been instrumental in supporting the congregation, cantors and choir, and has enhanced worship and helped move musical prayer forward.

"This is a unique instrument with many different sounds to choose from," Magee told the audience at the opening of the event. It includes digital samples from pipe organs, and samples from orchestral instruments. Organ really were the first synthesizers."

About Rodney Barbour

Rodney Barbour was born and raised in Huntington, West Virginia. Rodney's concerts throughout the United States and Canada have been enjoyed by audiences for their variety of musical styles and sound colors, which Rodney chooses during the performances!

Rodney is an accomplished keyboard musician accompanying choirs and soloists, and playing for concerts and services when opportunities present themselves. Rodney is also a skilled composer and arranger with published articles in various periodicals, and published organ arrangements with Concordia Publishing, Hope Publishing and Lifeway.

He told the audience that his performance marked a homecoming of sorts because he started his musical career in West Virginia playing Kimball

organs that were manufactured in Jasper. Later, his first position with a church had him playing a Rodgers organ; he played the latest Rodgers instrument at Precious Blood.

In addition to showcasing the beautiful sounds of the chimes, trumpets, strings, woodwinds and other instruments — even digital choral voices — Rodney explained the instrumentation and historical facts about the program pieces between songs.

Rodney is finishing his 16th year serving as Director of

Worship and Arts at Crestview Presbyterian Church in West Chester, Ohio. He directs the 40-voice Chancel Choir, the Crestview Ringers, the Worship Band, the Crestview Brass, and works with all music volunteers involved in children's music and small ensembles. Rodney's background includes degrees in Music Education and Trombone (Marshall University), Organ Performance (Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music), and additional study at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.



The Message photo by Tim Lilley
Guest performer Rodney Barbour interacted with the audience between songs.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Happy Birthday!

Deacon Kevin Bach of Holy Redeemer Parish in Evansville celebrates his birthday Jan. 13.

Father Tony Ernst, administrator of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Vincennes and St. Philip Neri Parish in Bicknell, celebrates his birthday Jan. 15.

Is Christ calling you to become a deacon?

God calls each of us to serve one another in charity and love. Some men are receiving a particular invitation from God to serve Christ and His Church in ordained ministry as permanent deacons.

If you might be interested in learning more, an information meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. CST Jan. 8, 2022, at the Catholic Center, 4200 North Kentucky, Evansville, IN 47711. There will also be additional information meetings in your local deaneries. Please

check your parish bulletins, or with your local pastor or parish deacon, for information on the deanery meetings. For more information, you also can contact Deacon Tom Evans by e-mail at tevens@evdio.org.

Lenten groups at St. John the Baptist, Newburgh

Father Henry Kuykendall, senior priest of the Diocese of Evansville, is facilitating two Lenten groups at St. John the Baptist Parish in Newburgh. Each will meet weekly on Tuesdays from Feb. 1 through April 12. In-person meetings will be from Noon to 1:30 p.m. CDT in the church library (face coverings and COVID vaccinations required), and Zoom meetings will be from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. CDT. Both series will be based on the book "Reclaiming Vatican II: What It (Really) Said, What It Means, and How It Calls Us to Renew the Church," by



Submitted photo

Live Nativity at Precious Blood Parish, Jasper

A live Nativity narrative, "The Story of Baby Jesus," was held at Precious Blood Parish in Jasper Dec. 12. The story was narrated by parishioner Kent Reyling, and the music was led by Brian Ketzner and Jennifer Kluemper. The actors in the skit were children of all ages from the parish. Live animals were brought in to help the Nativity "come alive!" Hot chocolate was served on the cold and windy Sunday afternoon, and a visit from Santa was enjoyed by all.

Father Blake Briton, a priest of the Diocese of Orlando, Florida. Cost of the book is \$20 and is available from the parish. To register, call the parish office at 812-490-1000 with your name, address, phone number and email address.

Evansville Birthright seeks volunteers

Birthright of Evansville is seeking volunteers to serve the area. Birthright provides assistance to pregnant women and families in need of resources from 10 a.m. CST to 2 p.m. CST on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Those interested should contact Betty Marcheschi at 812-424-2555 or email birthright.evansville@gmail.com.

Mass for Life and Holy Hour are Jan. 21

BY THE MESSAGE STAFF

Bishop Joseph M. Siegel will celebrate a Mass for Life at 5:30 p.m. CST Jan. 21 at St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville. A Holy Hour will immediately follow the Mass.

The Mass is scheduled for the eve of the 29th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion, which was issued Jan. 22, 1973. It also coincides with the 2022 March for Life, which is scheduled for Washington, D.C.

Again this year, COVID-19 restrictions have forced cancellation of the Pilgrimage for Life, which the Diocese of Evansville Office of Youth and Young Adults has organized for several years. OYAYA and the Diocesan Office of Family and Life have organized the Mass and Holy Hour as a way to pray for an end to abortion and remember the millions of innocent lives lost to abortion.

The Mass will be livestreamed on the Diocese of Evansville YouTube channel and the St. Benedict Cathedral Facebook page.

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We Remember in Prayer

Following is a feature in *The Message*, designed to help draw together the People of God in southwestern Indiana.

• **Landon Joseph Mattingly, 18**, of Dubois died Dec. 17, 2021, at Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper due to injuries from an automobile accident. He is the nephew of Sheila Barclay, who serves as design editor of *The Message*.

Landon was born in Jasper, Indiana, on December 17, 2003, to Laura Mattingly.

He was an early graduate of the Dubois High School Class of 2022, a member of the Future Farmers of America, and a member of the Army ROTC program through Howe Military Academy.

Landon was a member of St. Isidore Parish – St. Raphael Church in Dubois.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 23, 2021, at St. Raphael Church in Dubois. Interment followed in St. Mary Catholic Cemetery in Barr Township, Loogootee.

Please keep Landon and his family in your prayers.

Please send information for WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER to Tim Lilley at *The Message*, P.O. Box 4169, Evansville, IN 47724 or e-mail tlilley@evdio.org.



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Resolve to know Jesus of Nazareth

As we start the New Year, there is always a tremendous amount of conversation around New Year's resolutions. Statista.com shows the top four resolutions are: Increasing exercise, losing weight, saving money and improving diet . . . all worthy endeavors. Increasing in one's spiritual life, however, isn't even in the top 10. It must have been edged out by "decorating part of my home" (No. 10 on the list).

My guess is that many people in today's world might have some difficulty even defining what an "increase in the spiritual life" might entail, or how to go about it or even why it would be important. As Catholics, we have been given the great gift of understanding of the fundamentals of the spiritual life through a myriad of historical and contemporary resources.

I cannot think of another topic in history that has had such an extensive amount written about it as Christianity. I cannot think of another institution



THE CATHOLIC KITCHEN

ERIC GIRTEN

that has reached as far and wide as Christianity. I cannot think of another person who has inspired more art, music, charity, architecture, literature and the right social ordering of mankind as Jesus Christ. It is estimated that over 70 million women, men, and children have died for their belief in Jesus Christ over the past 2,000 years (over half of those in the 20th century alone due to the horrors of fascism and communism).

Countless others have lived and died within the Catholic faith without having to face a death sentence for it. Were all of these just misguided souls? Is our eternal existence really not on the same plane

as home decorating? In spite of a mountain of spiritual treasures, we find that convenience and distraction may prove to accomplish what 20 centuries of upheaval and persecution could not . . . a serious thinning of the Christian faithful.

However, distraction does not eliminate the Truth but simply attempts to mask it. The devil, who cannot overcome the power the God, must attempt to subvert and obfuscate in order to win souls away from God.

So, my simple place to start is this. In 2022, ask yourself this question: Who is the man, Jesus of Nazareth? We cannot have a relationship with someone who we have not taken the time to know. If some guidance or suggestions are needed in this area, send me an email and I will send some ideas.

Eric Girten is Director of Family and Life for the Diocese of Evansville.

Following St. Andrew's example of leadership

It was the end of my freshman year at the University of Southern Indiana, and I had only made it to two or three Newman Catholic Community meetings on campus. My faith was important to me, but I hadn't quite found my place on campus yet.

Somehow, the Holy Spirit had placed it into someone's mind to nominate me for an executive board position for Newman. I was nominated as treasurer; it was a minor position, but a position nonetheless. I was confused when I heard I had been nominated, but I accepted it. I thought maybe this was God's way of calling me to start taking the community aspect of my faith more seriously.

Once I became the treasurer, my sophomore year, I made a commitment to attend every weekly meeting. This is when I realized how special the Newman Catholic Community is at USI. Our common faith allows us to connect with one another on a deep level that isn't easy to accomplish with other peers. Whenever I hung out with the people at Newman, it was apparent they genuinely cared about one another. Whenever someone asked, "How's it going?" they were not just asking for the sake of small talk; they wanted to really know how you were doing. In a world where everything feels so surface-level, this was a great change of pace.

Fast forward to my junior year; it was December 2020, and we are holding nominations. Due to some scheduling issues, some of the officers had to step



A VIEW FROM CAMPUS

KIRK ODOM

down from their positions for next semester. One of the available positions was president. This threw off things a little bit since presidents typically serve for the whole school year. Due to being available at an awkward time, there were not many people interested in the position. I did not think of myself as someone cut out to be in a leadership position like that, but I decided to go for it anyway. It would turn out I was the only person to run for the position, so I automatically got it.

Within my first month of being the president of Newman Catholic, I wondered if I was even doing a good job. I am not a charismatic speaker or anything like that, so I wondered if I was right for this position. It was at the SEEK conference in early February when my outlook and confidence started to change. I was listening to one of the various talks we could pick from, and the speaker was discussing St. Andrew.

The speaker talked about how great a leader St. Andrew really was, despite not being a particularly

great speaker. Instead of being a great speaker, St. Andrew was the ultimate facilitator to Christ.

Andrew is credited to being the first disciple, and we see in John 1 that he brought his brother Peter to Jesus. Later, in John 6, we see that it is Andrew who brings forth the boy who had five barley loaves and two fish.

From these two stories, there is a lot of insight to discover. First, we see the importance of bringing others to Christ. The first person Andrew brings to Christ is Peter, who ends up being the leader of the Church as the first Pope. Second, we see the importance of bringing the gifts people have to Christ. Andrew, seeing that the boy only had five loaves and two fish, brings the boy to Jesus.

Through St. Andrew, we see how important it is to see what others have to offer and help them bring their gifts to God, so that God can turn those gifts into something exponentially more fruitful.

After this realization, my outlook on being a leader changed. I now knew it was not about what I could do, but it was about what God could do. Moving forward, I will definitely be praying for St. Andrew's intercession!

Kirk Odom is a senior History major with minors in Education and English. He will begin student teaching at North Posey Junior High School during Spring Semester. He graduates in May 2022.

How was Jesus called before being born?

I woke up early on Christmas Day. Honestly, I was a little disappointed because I would have liked to have slept a little longer. I decided to get up and go to the living room where we have a Christmas tree and, under the tree, a Nativity scene. I decided not to turn on the lights of the tree, but only the light of the stable depicting Mary and Joseph adoring God-made flesh in a newborn baby. It was still dark, so the light coming from the stable created an intimate environment.

After telling the Lord how disappointed I was



CONNECTING FAITH AND LIFE

PEDRO MENDEZ

(something he already knew), I asked him what he would like for me to focus on during my prayer. Two thoughts came to mind: first, a Spanish Christian song by Marcos Witt ("Al Estar Aqui") that speaks of a person contemplating, adoring and surrendering their total self before God's divinity, beauty, holiness and grandeur. The second thought was on the opening verses of the Gospel of John: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being" (John 1:1-3). As I reflected on those verses of John's Gospel, I also remembered a question that my son Stephen had asked me after the Christmas Eve Mass: "Pappa-Daddy, how was Jesus called before being born?"

So, early in the morning of Christmas day, I felt that God was inviting me to contemplate Jesus' divinity and the unspeakable-yet-humble way he emptied himself through his Incarnation and birth. The Eternal accepted a human body and a life limited

by space and time; the One through whom all things came into being decided to be fed by Mary. The One who didn't need anything chose to depend totally on Mary's and Joseph's care. The all-powerful, almighty and all-knowing Son of God assumed our humanity so completely that he tasted death to give us hope through his Resurrection. He is fully divine and fully human!

There is, however, tension when contemplating Jesus' divine and human natures. This tension is depicted in the ways the Gospels were written and in some Catholic Church documents, particularly Vatican II documents. It seems to me that we, disciples of Jesus, need to experience the same tension of Jesus' divine and human natures in our hearts. The result of having this tensional experience is our total surrender in awe, fear and adoration before God's divinity, beauty, holiness and grandeur – revealed in the simplicity of his mercy and compassion. God's mercy and compassion are not idealistic perceptions of God, but concrete ways of experiencing God's unconditional love in our lives.

Where are Jesus' divine and human natures revealed to us today? Is it through our joys, illnesses and sorrows? Is it through our hope, grief, despair and darkness? Is it through the acceptance of the way God is shaping us into his image under our current/real-life condition, whatever that might be? Is it

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The Message

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‘Pilgrimage: A community event’ is Jan. 16-18

KEITH NESTER
Special to The Message

As Catholics, we all love a good conversion story; someone who has wrestled with the truth’s of the Church’s teachings and came out passionately preaching the good news!

Former Protestant pastor Keith Nester will share his conversion story in three Evansville presentations, scheduled for Jan. 16-18. “Pilgrimage: a community event” has been organized by three local parishes — Holy Redeemer, Resurrection and St.

Joseph, Vanderburgh County — and by the Diocese of Evansville Cursillo Movement.

Nester will speak at 6 p.m. nightly at Holy Redeemer on Jan. 16, Sacred Heart Church on Jan. 17 and Resurrection on Jan. 18. There is no charge to attend any of the talks, and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be a part of each evening. Holy Redeemer will host a community meal catered by El Patron at 5 p.m. Jan. 16. For more information on the meal, visit www.holyredeemerchurch.org/keith-nester-pilgrimage.html.



KEITH NESTER

About Keith Nester

In 2017, after a 20-year-long discernment process, Keith resigned his full time ministry position and entered the Catholic Church. He now shares his passion for communicating the truths of the Catholic faith in a clear, engaging and impactful manner at parish events. He is also active on YouTube, reaching out to share these truths to the world.

His first Catholic encounter was with a future co-worker, who simply shared his passion for Catholicism and did so joyfully. Their ongoing conversations and shared love for Christ proved to keep fueling Keith’s fire for the Catholic faith, which ultimately led to his conversion.

On Oct. 8, 2017, Keith entered the Catholic Church. He says, “Since becoming Catholic, life has not been easy. I have lost friends, money, security, stability and more. But what I have gained has been more valuable than I could ever have asked for. My life’s mission now is to help others on their journey of faith.”

ICC

Continued from page 1

Church has experience in, and has either advocated for or against in some form, since its beginning — certainly long before there were lobbyists and massive political agendas.”

Protecting human life from conception to natural death remains the most pressing of the Church’s priorities — and, therefore, the ICC’s. Abortion is at the forefront of the national debate again, as the Supreme Court has recently considered pro-life legislation in Texas and Mississippi that has been challenged by abortion advocates.

Indiana Speaker of the House Todd Huston (R-Fishers) stated during his recent Organization Day speech for the state legislature that Indiana is following developments at the Supreme Court.

“In Indiana, we have a strong history of standing up for the rights of the unborn, and we’ll continue to build on our pro-life efforts this session,” Huston said.

Throughout its history, the ICC has supported pro-life initiatives brought before the General Assembly, Espada said. That includes standing up for the unborn while opposing the death penalty and assisted suicide. Pro-life efforts can take a variety of forms, she emphasized, pointing to recent efforts by the legislature to increase accommodations for pregnant women in the workplace — from longer and more frequent breaks to temporary transfers to less strenuous or hazardous environments.

“The legislation that passed last year did not go far enough, and we’d like to see something better this year for expectant moms,” Espada said.

With COVID cases once again on the rise, efforts to stem the pandemic are likely to dominate conversations at the Statehouse during the 2022 session, according to Alexander Mingus, associate director of the ICC.

“We anticipate lots of discussion around COVID response, especially concerning vaccines and exemptions,” Mingus said. Espada added that the ICC will be particularly interested in the debate as it concerns religious freedom and liberty.

With inflation rising sharply nationwide, Espada and Mingus expressed hope that a long-overdue update of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program would finally pass the state legislature. TANF is a federal government program that provides grants to the states for distribution to families in dire economic circumstances. Because of outdated state guidelines, the \$288 maximum monthly cash payment for a family of three in deep poverty has not been adjusted for inflation since 1988.

Much to the dismay of the ICC and other advocates for the poor, proposed legislation to update TANF has been passed over in recent legislative sessions.

“Even though TANF money flows to the states from the federal government and is readily available, Indiana has not offered an increase in monthly payments for the neediest of the needy in more than three decades,” Espada said. “With COVID continuing to devastate our economy and inflation on the rise, we need these changes more urgently than ever.”

She and Mingus call on the Catholic faithful for their prayers during the 2022 legislative session — as well as their active engagement. They encourage everyone to visit the ICC website, www.indianacc.org, which offers access to I-CAN, the Indiana Catholic Action Network. Those who sign up for I-CAN receive action alerts on important legislation and ways to contact their elected representatives.

“This is the best way for everyone to stay engaged with us throughout the legislative session and all year long,” said Mingus, who was instrumental in recently revamping the ICC website and introducing the weekly podcast that he and Espada host during the General Assembly. “If anyone has family members, friends and fellow parishioners who aren’t aware of the ICC, we ask that they encourage them to sign up for I-CAN and stay up to date through our podcast and other resources.

“We need everyone’s help to spread the word that we exist, and ultimately to support our work on behalf of the Church.”

Bishop’s Schedule

Confirmation Mass, St. Bernard Church, Rockport, 10:30 a.m. CST, Sunday, Jan. 9.

Mass, Sarto Chapel, Evansville, 11:30 a.m. CST, Tuesday, Jan. 11.

Mass, Sarto Chapel, Evansville, 11:30 a.m. CST, Thursday, Jan. 13.

Faith and Life

Continued from page 4

through the support of family, Church and friends, or the lack of them? Is it through creation? Jesus’ desire for us is to see his divine and human natures, to the extent he wants to reveal himself to us, through our daily life circumstances and under the condition of our life here and now. Would you give yourself the chance to experience Jesus’ divine and human natures in your life here and now? It will be unforgettable!

I continue pondering Jesus’ eternity, Witt’s song and my son’s question after Christmas Eve Mass: “Pappa-Daddy, how was Jesus called before being born?” Maybe, as my son grows older, I accept the challenge of showing him how the Eternal One humbly walks with us every day amid our joys, sorrows and messiness; and how God asks the total surrender of our good yet-imperfect-and-sinful selves as the only way of humble adoration. Maybe then, he follows the One I follow, loves the One I love, and worships the One I worship.

Pedro Mendez is a husband, a father of four boys, a parishioner at Good Shepherd Parish in Evansville, and a Board Certified Chaplain. He can be reached by email at emilyandpedrom@gmail.com.

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Don and Donna Gries celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Jan. 6. They were married Jan. 6, 1962, at St. Wendel Church in St. Wendel.

Every moment has potential

"The man with a gigantic power of enjoyment goes through life very quietly, for he can enjoy quiet things"
(G. K. Chesterton).

I really like this quote. I like to sit with it, ponder it and think about what it means. It isn't easily understood, and I don't think it means one specific thing. For some reason, it excites me. Maybe because Chesterton uses the words gigantic and quiet so strikingly in this sentence; maybe because, when I think of enjoying something, I default to envisioning jumping-up-and-down excitement instead of something quiet. I'd love to talk to Chesterton about his thoughts — on this and many subjects — but for now, I'll find my own value in his words.

Every moment has potential. Each January, at the start of a new year, I feel that even more. The new year is filled with moments not yet lived; and I'd like to enjoy as many as possible, even the simple, quiet ones. Being quiet, silent and listening have always been important parts of prayer and nurturing a relationship with the Lord.

Life can be complex and complicated, and how distracting and full of stuff it often is. Our society is loud and flashy, but I'd say one of the main reasons why our moments and days, and therefore our lives, are incredibly stuffed full is because of "The



WONDERFUL ADVENTURE

KAITLIN KLEIN

Amazing, Almost-All-Knowing Smartphone."

It can fill every moment that isn't otherwise occupied. It's the news, a radio, camera; the list goes on and on. I find myself using it to look up every tiny thing I'm curious about, and to be "productive" by responding to texts and emails.

As much as I like today's technology in general, sometimes I think it'd be simpler to live like Abraham Lincoln grew up — in a one-room cabin, with entertainment of simple games and reading books. This year, a resolution of mine is to look at my phone and respond to texts and emails only at certain times of the day; to limit the distraction a phone brings.

Screen addiction can be a real issue, and damaging even like substance abuse can be. If we're always looking for more and more lights and thrills, squeezing in as much scrolling as we can, seeking more entertainment, the latest stuff, and not letting our eyes,

minds, and hearts simply rest and be, I believe it will be difficult to enjoy quiet things, simple things.

We may completely miss the small joys God sends. Focused, simple, quiet things can be beautiful and gigantic blessings: My son giggling at an inflatable reindeer, walks in the sunshine, meaningful conversations, family dinners, living room dances, good books, creativity and silent prayer.

If the Lord speaks to us in the silence of our hearts, we may be able to hear him better if we stop some of the noise in our days and "go through life very quietly." Chesterton doesn't mean to live passively or with melancholy, but just the opposite — to engage in each moment, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant, and to bring it all to God. To be thankful and go back to the foundation that all comes from Him. Here's to more quiet living in the presence of God this year.

Kaitlin Klein is a 2014 graduate of the University of Evansville. She is a music therapist at Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio. Her home parish is St. Ferdinand in Ferdinand.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for Sunday, January 9, 2022

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

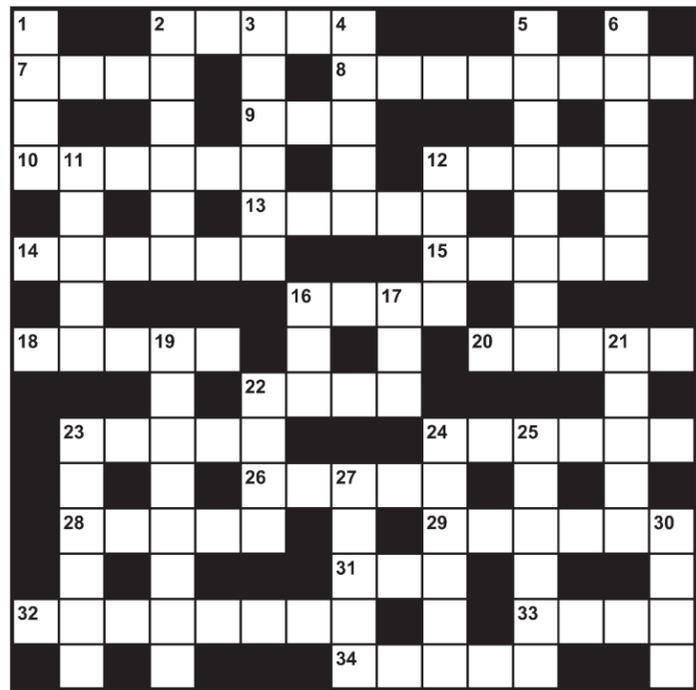
Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Baptism of the Lord, Cycle C. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

R N P G B M Y T S M K J E N N Y S J H W N
M Z Y C A C H S O U P V N U O I Z P A F E
L O G A P E T U A R S E Y H I N F T Q M V
R L E N T P R H K N S E T O T R E A N L A
O U S R I M O U K O D Z J L A R N F F Y E
E C T D Z M W Y O M Q A P Y T V O I C E H
H O H D E G O L E T M P L Q C J O H N F S
X L N R Z N P C I H K G B S E I D M K P L
Q O B Q I M V U N B J J J I P L G S I X K
U W V L H S I R M Z V L R Q X H T R C J X
M A F X Y R T H O N G S H W E R I U Y I S
M U Q W V F N F I A L D L D A T H X P X W
D Z R U G M J T C W W M R E I T H G I M N
D G J F B U W D F R P W H F Y H U Y X D T
T E X K K O Q U O N C Z L F V V S Z N U K
S B L I Y G C S M V S N W I K Y E D P A Z
X U P L I W V I Q B C E R I F V O I Q C D
P O K E I Q Y W I A V A I Y O O G W D F R
F S T Z V F A M N D G E T D R U C I P G X
C W U B W G B M K Q H L V L V S Y O Z X E
E L P O E P Q J B M G W G V Y A W I K T T

- | | | | | |
|--------|---------|--------|-------------|--------|
| DOVE | BAPTIZE | WATER | EXPECTATION | JOHN |
| HOLY | LOOSEN | HEARTS | MIGHTIER | VOICE |
| JESUS | SANDALS | PEOPLE | THONGS | FIRE |
| CHRIST | WORTHY | FILLED | COMING | SPIRIT |
| | | HEAVEN | | |

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 2 Son of Japheth, in Genesis
 - 7 "Cheer, cheer for ole Notre ___."
 - 8 "We ___, we celebrate, we believe"
 - 9 First mark of the Church
 - 10 One who dies for the faith
 - 12 Old Testament hymn
 - 13 Archdiocese in northern Italy
 - 14 Catholic actor named after his comedian father
 - 15 Prayer time
 - 16 Nun topper
 - 18 Biblical bad weather
 - 20 Catholic author, Mary Higgins
 - 22 ___ Jesus was offered this on the cross
 - 23 In chapter 2, Jeremiah compares
- DOWN**
- 11 The feast of St. Bernadette
 - 12 Altar linen
 - 16 Number of sacraments, in Roman numerals
 - 17 A finish for Canaan
 - 19 A type of sin
 - 21 Physical remains of, or items that have touched the body, of a saint
 - 22 Direction from the Jordan to Bethlehem
 - 23 Moses floated the Nile in one of these
 - 24 It can rescue us from troubles
 - 25 Pertaining to the Blessed Mother
 - 27 The Archdiocese of Niamey is found in this African country
 - 30 The Inferno



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See answers on page 8.

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The Baptism of the Lord, Year C

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Response: Psalm 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30; Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

The first reading is the opening oracle of the part of Isaiah known as the Book of Consolation, chapters 40-55 of Isaiah. The time is 540-538 B.C. The people of Israel have been in exile in Babylon from 70 to 42 years depending on which wave of exiles were marched off to Babylon (Iraq today) between 598-582 B.C. The yearning of Israel for its homeland is expressed in Psalm 137, "By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept when we remembered Zion (Jerusalem). On the willows there we hung up our harps." Babylon was now in decline. Persia under King Cyrus the Great is on the march resulting in the end of the Neo-Babylonian Empire and beginning dominance of the Persian Empire. The prophet known as Second or Deutero-Isaiah enters biblical history. He is a theologian and keen observer of political events. It was well known that Cyrus, devoted to his gods, had a policy of letting exiled peoples return to their homelands and rebuild their cities and temples to worship their own gods. His motive was to win favor for these so-called gods. To him, the Lord God of Israel was just another god to be placated.

Second Isaiah has a message of consolation. "Be comforted! Be consoled, My People, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and cry out to her, 'Your time of servanthood is ended.'" They would be going home. In rousing metaphors, the prophet-poet speaks of building a superhighway through deserts and across mountains as a path homeward to Jerusalem. All four gospels will use these ancient words in some form to legitimize the mission of John the Baptizer five centuries later. The gospels connect this passage from Second Isaiah with John's baptism of water for repentance of sins. Therefore, our first reading is an appropriate choice for the liturgical celebration of the baptism of Jesus by John. The prophet's message of consolation becomes emotionally charged as he describes the tenderness of the mighty Lord God's loving pastoral care of his people, "He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will gather the lambs in his arms, carry them close to his heart, and gently lead the pregnant ewes."

Responsorial Psalm 104 is a hymn praising the



SUNDAY SCRIPTURE

FATHER DONALD DILGER

Creator and proclaiming the glories of creation. It is not clear how this Psalm responds to the first reading. Despite this lack of harmony, there are beautiful metaphors which deserve to be noticed. The Psalmist sings that God is clothed in light as with a cloak. He constructed his palace on the waters (a yacht?). The clouds are his chariot. He travels on the wings of the wind. The winds are his messengers. Fire is his servant. Our Psalm closes with the words that forms the basis of a Christian prayer to call upon the Holy Spirit. "When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth."

The second reading is from the Letter to Titus, one of St. Paul's Gentile converts. The little we know of him tells us that his grave personality served as a counter to Paul's mercurial personality. He accompanied Paul to the Council of Jerusalem in 49 A.D. Paul sent him on a delicate mission to restore peace between Paul and the Christians of Corinth. While there, he also served as Paul's agent for a collection of alms to support the Christian community at Jerusalem. Selection of this reading for the feast of Jesus' baptism was probably determined by these words, "Jesus, who gave himself up for us . . . to cleanse for himself a people of his own . . ." and "He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewed us in the Holy Spirit . . ." Thus we see implicit an appropriate interpretation of Jesus' submission to a baptism of repentance — that at his baptism he began what he completed by his death on the cross — taking upon himself the sins of the world.

Three gospels describe the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptizer. Our main concern is Luke's version in this year dedicated to his gospel. It is, however, helpful to take a look at the versions of Mark and Matthew. Mark's version is the earliest and the simplest. After he had recorded his version, Matthew and Luke, writing about 15 years later, apparently found it helpful to make some

changes. Mark had stated very concisely that Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the Jordan. When Jesus came out of the water, "the heavens were ripped open and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove." Next, a voice from heaven, "You are my beloved Son. In you I am well pleased." That's it. Matthew next. Something bothers him. Didn't Mark write that John's baptism was a "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins?" Yet Scripture is clear about the sinlessness of Jesus. See *John 8:46; 1 John 3:5; Hebrews 4:15*. When Jesus approaches, the Baptizer objects, "I need to be baptized by you." But Jesus commands him to just do it!

Luke's handling of this delicate matter is even stranger. In the sequence of events in his gospel, John the Baptizer is first imprisoned by Herod Antipas, ruler of Galilee. Then Luke writes, "When all the people were baptized, and when Jesus had been baptized . . ." It may not be noticed by readers, but Luke cannot bring himself to openly declare that John, the lesser, baptized the one whom John himself had proclaimed as "one mightier than I, the string of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." Does he make any other changes in Mark's version? In Luke's version, Mark's "Spirit" becomes the "Holy Spirit" and that Jesus "was praying" when the heavens opened for the descent of the Spirit. It should be noted that the Gospel of John completely omits John's baptism of Jesus but does include the descent of the Spirit upon Jesus. So why was Jesus, the sinless Lamb of God without blemish, baptized at all? A fourth century hymn by Prudentius in the Roman Breviary gives this answer, "The Lamb from heaven touched the Jordan's cleansing waters, and washing us, took away sins that were not his." Jesus began at his baptism what he completed on the Cross. True to its style, the Gospel of John omits the event (the baptism of Jesus), but gives us the meaning in this statement of the Baptizer, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

Why baptize a baby



QUESTION CORNER

FATHER KENNETH DOYLE

Question: Our son and his wife-to-be are not practicing Catholics. They have a little girl, now 20 months old, who needs to be baptized. How do we as parents approach the subject — without turning them against the faith completely or against us? (Regina, Saskatchewan)

Answer: Let me say first that I admire very much your love for Catholicism and your desire to pass on the benefits of the Catholic faith to your granddaughter. My goal is the same as yours: to bring her parents back to regular practice of the faith so they can offer strong religious support to their child.

The wording of your question, though, may be significant. You say that your granddaughter "needs to be baptized." Is it possible that you think that is her only chance for heaven? I raise the question because there are some people who believe that.

So let me clarify that first. In 2007, the Vatican's International Theological Commission, with the approval of Pope Benedict XVI, said that the concept of limbo reflected "an unduly restrictive view of salvation" and that the mercy of God offers good reason to hope that babies who die without being baptized can go to heaven.

Now, on to your question. Canon 868 of the church's Code of Canon Law states that "for an infant to be baptized licitly . . . there must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion."

Right now, as you describe the situation, that sounds doubtful. If you see an opportunity in a quiet way to speak to your son about the religious path he might be considering for their daughter, then do it.

But be careful not to force it. To strong-arm your son about his religious responsibility could have a negative effect, including jeopardizing your relationship with him for a long time.

Do you think it might be better for now simply to pray for them, that they will reach the choice of baptism on their own? And remember that God cares about the baby's salvation even more than you do.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany, New York 12203.

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Heating advice for safety, comfort and saving money

SPECIAL TO THE MESSAGE

How about some hot tips to handle the winter cold? You can improve your heating system and warm up to safety and savings.

Fuel to heat our homes can mean high bills. And heating increases the risks of fire, explosion and carbon-monoxide poisoning. But a heating system that works efficiently can mean more warmth, more safety and more money left for other things.

The Evansville-Vanderburgh County Building Commission, Evansville Fire Department, Vanderburgh County township fire departments, American Red Cross, CenterPoint Energy, and your local heating and air conditioning contractors want to alert the citizens of Southwestern Indiana to the dangers of carbon-monoxide poisoning; fire and explosion from a malfunctioning furnace; a blocked flue or chimney; a broken gas line; or inadequate air for combustion.

There may be hidden damage to your furnace, gas piping, flue or chimney. We are recommending that all citizens have their furnaces, space heaters, ranges, water heaters, gas lines, chimneys, flues and other heating equipment checked by a licensed heating contractor without delay. You will protect yourself and your family this winter and save on heating bills.

Carbon monoxide replaces the oxygen

in the air we breathe when fuel-burning equipment is operating and the vent or chimney is obstructed, or there is not enough air to let the equipment burn fuel efficiently. Carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless and tasteless, and catches its victims unaware — sometimes as they sleep.

If you suspect a carbon-monoxide problem, leave your home and call 911 or your local fire department. Families across the country have been killed by carbon-monoxide poisoning, and many others have become seriously ill. Symptoms may be similar to the flu including headache, dizziness, nausea and shortness of breath. There may be chest pain, fatigue and confusion.

You may go to sleep and never wake up.

Always use portable generators outdoors, far away from the home and any openings. Don't use a range or oven for heat.

Candle fires also have killed families. Be careful using candles during power outages and other times!

And make a family-fire-escape plan. The American Red Cross reminds you to use supplemental heating sources according to directions. Don't use extension cords or power strips with space heaters.

Help alert your family with working smoke alarms and carbon-monoxide alarms. Regularly test the alarms and change any batteries, and replace the alarms as directed. Your local fire department may be able to check your alarms and replace them free.

They can help

SPECIAL TO THE MESSAGE

Evansville Urban Enterprise Association offers free carbon-monoxide alarms and smoke alarms, while supplies last, to residents of the Enterprise Zone and the service areas outside the zone who have not received them in the past. Call 812-426-2490.

American Red Cross will provide in-home disaster and home-fire-safety education, test your smoke alarms and replace up to three if needed, and supply specialty alarms for the deaf and hard of hearing. Call 888-684-1441.

Community Action Program of Evansville handles the Indiana Weatherization Assistance Program in Vanderburgh, Posey and Gibson counties. CAPE may repair or replace faulty heating equipment and make other energy-efficient improvements. CAPE also helps with heating bills. CAPE has income limits. Call 812-425-4241.

Memorial Community Development Corp. offers emergency home repairs. The program covers repairs urgently needed to protect the residents. Homes must be owner-occupied, and there are income limits. Call 812-424-8627 or email housing@memorialcdc.org.

Community One assists homeowners with major home repairs, including furnace repair or replacement, roof repair or replacement and ramp construction. Homeowners must live in the home and are expected to help pay for the project as able. Call 812-213-4202 or email info@community1.org.

Affordable Housing Trust Fund Advisory Committee may provide loans to qualified homeowners for needed housing improvements. The program may repair or replace heating units and make other winter-related improvements. The owner must occupy the home and meet income and other qualifications. Call the Department of Metropolitan Development at 812-436-7823.

CenterPoint Energy has details on energy-saving products, income-qualified weatherization and energy assessments, and rebates for purchases of qualifying furnaces, programmable thermostats and insulation. Call 866-240-8476 or visit centerpointenergy.com/saveenergy.

Handy Helpers Home Repair, a Catholic Charities program, will change furnace filters, install smoke alarms and carbon-monoxide alarms, caulk, weatherstrip, weatherproof, install storm doors and storm windows, replace entry doors, install handrails, and make home repairs at a reasonable cost. Call 812-217-3537 or visit handyhelpersevv.com.

Faith-based organizations, social agencies and township trustees may help with heating bills and needs. Call 211 to find resources.

Reitz Memorial High School Athletes Named to the All Fall Central Region Team



Submitted photo

Reitz Memorial soccer players Ella Hamner, left, and Kennedy Neighbors have been named all-state by the Indiana Soccer Coaches Association.

SPECIAL TO THE MESSAGE

Reitz Memorial High School congratulates student-athletes Ella Hamner (second team) and Kennedy Neighbors (first team) for being named All State by the ISCA (Indiana Soccer Coaches Association). Ella and Kennedy were recognized by the United Soccer Coaches Association as members of the 2021 Fall High School Girls Central Region Team.

Kennedy, a junior, is Captain of the Memorial

Girls Soccer Team and scored 25 goals — and also had 22 assists. She is also first team All-City, first team All-Metro, first team All-SIAC, first team All-District, first team All-State, and United Coaches Association All Region.

Ella Hamner, a junior, scored 27 goals and had eight assists. She is also first team All-City, first team All-Metro, first team All-SIAC, first team All-District, second team All-State, and United Coaches Association All Region.

THIS WEEK'S ANSWERS

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