

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER ANDREW THOMAS... Coffee Table Books and Faith: A Thoughtful Reflection

I'm sure we all love coffee table books. They are filled with pictures and are available in various shapes and sizes, but we seldom pick them up to read. These books are usually oversized and stretch across our laps when opened. I have a pile of them in the rectory and pick up one or two every time I go somewhere. I'm not sure where my interest in coffee table books came from, but I've even started collecting *official guides*, which is a story for another time. Unfortunately, I've noticed that I treat my faith like a coffee table book sometimes. It's tempting to pick it up and look at it safely from the comfort of my day-to-day life, but it's not at the center of my life or something I practice with conviction. I hope I'm not the only one struggling to allow the grace



of God to transform my life.

Walking with Jesus Christ

Each year, we walk with Jesus Christ, celebrating the high points of his life and ministry. This yearly journey is meant to help us unite more deeply with Jesus Christ, to walk with him daily, and to live as he did, to hope as he hoped. Our source of hope is simple: no matter what comes our way this year, we're walking with God, and he's walking with us.

- Father Andrew Thomas

Exploring Life's Big Questions

Seek the answers to life's biggest questions with *The Search*. Are you looking for an opportunity to learn more about why you're here? What is this journey in between the event we call *birth* and the one we call *death*? The questions are there, and the answers are, too.

We welcome you to join us at Haubstadt's Knights of Columbus Hall from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Explore life's big questions with us on the following dates:

- January 17
- February 28
- March 13
- April 17

ST. JAMES & STS. PETER & PAUL'S Advent Mass Schedule

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Thursday, December 7: St. James @ 7 p.m. Thursday, December 7: Sts. Peter & Paul @ 6:30 p.m. Friday, December 8: St. James @ 8:30 a.m. & 7 p.m. Friday, December 8: Sts. Peter & Paul @ 5:45 a.m. & 8 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday Obligation Masses Saturday, December 23: St. James @ 5 p.m. Saturday, December 23: Sts. Peter & Paul @ 5 p.m. Sunday, December 24: St. James @ 7 a.m. & 9 a.m. Sunday, December 24: Sts. Peter & Paul @ 7 a.m.

Christmas Obligation Masses Sunday, December 24: St. James @ 5 p.m. Sunday, December 24: Sts. Peter & Paul @ 4 p.m. & midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25: St. James @ 8 a.m. Monday, December 25: Sts. Peter & Paul @ 9 a.m.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Monday, January 1: St. James @ 8 a.m. Monday, January 1: Sts. Peter & Paul @ 6:30 p.m.



Make a donation, by December 15, in memory of a departed loved one and help purchase our altar Christmas flowers. These memorial gifts will be included on the Christmas Flower Memorial list and posted in the church.



CONFESSION OPPORTUNITIES

ST. JAMES

30 minutes before Masses Saturdays: 4 p.m. - 4:55 p.m.

Additional Advent Confessions: December 18 - 22: 6:30 p.m. - 6:55 p.m. December 20: Penance Service following the 7 p.m. Mass

STS. PETER & PAUL

Mondays: 6 p.m. - 6:25 p.m. Wednesdays: 7:30 a.m. - 7:55 a.m. Fridays: 7:30 a.m. - 7:55 a.m. Saturdays: 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. Saturdays: 4:30 p.m. - 4:55 p.m.

Additional Advent Confessions: December 16: 4 p.m. - 4:50 p.m. December 18: 5:30 p.m. - 6:20 p.m. December 18: 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. December 23: 4 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.

Church Decorating



All are welcome to help decorate Sts. Peter & Paul for Christmas! Our church always looks so beautiful during this season! Stay after 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 17 to help carry decorations, set up Christmas trees and the nativity, and place greenery around the church. For more details, contact the parish office at 812.768.6457.

TSts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church December 2023

Advent 2023

Share a little holiday cheer! Send a Christmas Greeting

Father Andrew Thomas

209 N Vine St Haubstadt, IN 47639

Deacon Bill Brandle

7255 Schultz Road Elberfeld IN, 47613

Saint Meinrad

200 Hill Dr

St. Meinrad, IN 47577

- Dcn. Caleb Scherzinger
- Dcn. Phillip Rogier
- Nick Biever
- Keith Hart
- Aaron Herrenbruck
- Clint Johnson
- Nathan Folz
- James Wassmer

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary

5200 Clennon Dr St. Louis, MO 63119

- Chase Riecker
- Dylan Stefanich

Bishop Simon Brute College 2500 Cold Spring Rd.

Indianapolis, IN 46222 • Jacob Schneider

Father Deydier House

2701 W Franklin StEvansville, IN 47712Nicholas Folz

- NICholas Folz
- Nicholas FreybergerFliott Church
- Iack Martin
- Jack Martin
- Landon Wagner



Wednesday, December 20th 6:30pm

Sts. Peter & Paul Church

The evening begins with the traditional 19th century service of scripture and song. Afterwards, join us for a reception in the cafeteria. All are welcome!



PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Thomas

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Kenneth Betz

Deacon: William Brandle

OFFICE STAFF

Office Manager Kourtni Wayman

Finance Officer Jane Rhodes

Cemetery Manager Kim Goedde

Communications Coordinator Amie Hulfachor

Director of Sacred Music Drew Wilson

Religious Education/Faith Formation Laura Goedde & Jessica Church

Sacraments - Baptisms & Weddings Breana Taylor

Sacraments - First Communion & Confirmation Laura Schneider

> Youth Ministry Bryan Macke

STS. PETER & PAUL SCHOOL

Principal Megan Howington

> **Secretary** Tricia Conklin

CONTACT US TODAY!

Parish Office 812.768.6457

School Office 812.768.6775

Priest Emergency Number 812.768.5747

www.stsppchurch.com

TSts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church December 2023

Parish Updates

Increase in 2023 Mass Attendance

We're thrilled to announce that our weekend Mass attendance has risen over the past year! Seeing the pews full brings us great joy. As we head into Advent and the new year, reach out to someone or a family that you haven't seen in awhile and invite them to Mass!

2022 Mass Count

Weekend Total: 1,871 Weekend Average: 624

2023 Mass Count Weekend Total: 1,993 Weekend Average: 664

Catholic Ministries Appeal

The Diocese of Evansville relies on the funds raised from the Catholic Ministries Appeal (formally known as CPC) to operate just as our parish relies on funds raised from the Sunday collection. Sts. Peter & Paul's assessment is \$198,476. At the time of publication, our parish had received \$143,562 in pledges. Thank you to those who have already given; your support is greatly appreciated!

If you have not yet given, please prayerfully consider how



you can support the CMA. Pledge cards may be dropped in the box at the church door or in the collection basket or mailed to the parish office. Online giving is also available at www.evdio.org or by scanning the QR code. There is an online payment service fee.

End of the Year Donations

All donations to Sts. Peter & Paul for tax substantiation must be in by January 1, 2024 and dated December 31, 2023. Donations received after January 1, will be recorded as a 2024 donation. If you are making a donation of stock, please contact the parish office at 812.768.6457. Thank you for you generosity.

Welcome to our new parishioners!

Armon Bud Adler

Jesse & Andrea Boyle Ella, Eli, Everett

Eric & Brianna Curl Raegan, Gracie, Levi

Samantha Erny

Isabel Greubel

Tyler & Cameron Hatchett

Ryan & Jasmyne Kern

Caleb & Christian O'Brien

Matthew & Alleyna Waggoner

Willis & Chelsea Welp

Diocesan Overview

Have you ever wondered how the Diocese of



Evansville operates? Please watch the video presentation of how the diocese is structured, funded and works with all of the parishes to carry out the ministry of the Catholic Church. To view the video, scan the QR code or visit evdio.org.

Additional Parkina Added

We are happy to share that a new parking lot has been added to the north of our campus! Instead of walking along the street, use the walkway along the Kinder Haus playground to access the Family Life Center parking lot.



install the parking lot!

Parish Updates



Save the date for Sts. Peter & Paul's Die Kirche Auktion Fest's 20th Anniversary! Mark your calendar for April 13-14 and plan to celebrate two decades of auction traditions. The steering team is already working hard to make this a huge success, and we need your support to make it happen. See your auction mailer for all the details!

Help fill our auction tables!

To donate auction items, complete a donation form or scan the QR code. In addition to items, experiences and services are always a big hit! Here are ideas:

Time - Consider hosting a themed event. Ideas: progressive dinner or holiday party.

Talent - Consider sharing your talents by donating a cooking or baking class, sports training session or crafting lesson.

Treasure - Do you own a business or know someone who wants to support our parish? Donate your services!

Early Bird Donation Deadline: January 5, 2024



CEMETERY UPDATES Renovating the Cemetery Entrance

After years of planning and work, Sts. Peter & Paul's cemetery entrance is complete. With national research pointing to a rise in cremations, the newly added columbarium niche cabinets (final resting place for ashes) are the perfect addition. The cemetery's landlocked status required creative thinking to conserve space while still offering a variety of burial options. Incorporating the community columbaria niches saves valuable land and complements our new entrance plans. To learn more about cremation and columbarium niche options, contact Kim Goedde, cemetery manager, at kgoedde@evdio.org.



Members of the cemetery committee pose with the new columbarium. Left to right: Jim Helfrich, Bob Seib, Terry Goedde, Andrew Schmitt, Von Wolfe, Travis Kiesel, Rick Schmitt, Mel Ziliak, Ryan Scherer and Alan Wade



The Die Kirche Auktion is a fun-filled weekend celebrating our parish! Save the date for April 13 - 14, 2024!

- GERMAN MEAL
- RAFFLES
- KIDS' GAMES
- SILENT AUCTION
- LIVE AUCTION
- BIDDING FRENZY
- RAFFLES

License # 011112

Ministry Focus





The choir and instrumentalists perform on November 19, 2023.

If you love music, contact Drew Wilson, Director of Sacred Music! There are many ways to share your love and talent at our parishes, whether you sing, play an accompaniment instrument or melodic instrument. And, you don't have to be a superstar! We're happy to meet you where you are, to find the right fit for you, and to help you grow.



DREW WILSON CONTRIBUTOR

BEAUTIFUL SOUNDS Glorifying God Through Sacred Music

When the Second Vatican Council met in the 1960s, the very first document they produced was devoted entirely to the subject of sacred music (Musicam Sacram; it's freely available online). In this essay, the Church tells us that sacred music's true purpose is "the glory of God and the sanctification of the faithful." We take that charge seriously in our music ministry at St. James and Sts. Peter and Paul, knowing that God is glorified through our hard work to develop the talents that he has given to us. And so we continue to expand our abilities, hoping that God will find us to be faithful stewards of those gifts.

In support of the nationwide Eucharistic Renewal, we've been introducing new music. In addition to This Is Jesus, we are adding two beautiful songs to our repertoire of Eucharistic congregational hymns: Joncas's "Take and Eat" and Stephan's "Bread of Angels." In addition, our choirs will begin singing Frisina's Anima Christi and Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus.

Our students are becoming more comfortable with chant. Starting this winter, you may hear them singing two of our most beautiful chant hymns: Creator of the Stars of Night and Of the Father's Love Begotten. If you don't know these wonderful hymns that Catholics have sung for nearly a thousand years, they are easy to find on YouTube, and they are pretty quick to learn, even if you haven't sung much chant.

We have some special Christmas music programs coming up. Our third annual Festival of Lessons and Carols will be on Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m. Join us at Sts. Peter & Paul Church for an evening of contemplation, Scripture, and music in which nine readings about Jesus's fulfillment of the Old Testament Messianic prophecies are united with meditations written by our parishioners at St. James, Sts. Peter and Paul and Holy Cross, and with music from musicians and choirs at all three parishes. A reception will follow in the Sts. Peter & Paul School's cafeteria.

Ministry Focus



st. maria goretti youth ministry Making an Impact

The St. Maria Goretti Youth Ministry kicked off the new school year in September with a range of engaging activities. The youth participated in bingo with the elderly at Owensville's Transcendent Healthcare, high school RockLife, and a new initiative, MS Girls Gathering, which provides middle school girls an opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship. Additionally, high school Girl Time and Boys Open Gym began in November.

RockLife has been a big success with an average of 30 high school students attending each night. This year, guest speakers from different backgrounds provide attendees with diverse perspectives on their spiritual walk with the Lord and His Church.

On October 21, sixteen middle school students joined 500 other youth in Nashville, TN, for the Holy Fire retreat. With renowned Catholic speakers, uplifting music and the opportunity to participate in Adoration and Mass, the retreat was a fantastic and memorable experience for all.

To get involved in our youth ministry or to learn more, contact Bryan Macke!











TSts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church December 2023

Faith Formation



HOLY CROSS, ST. JAMES AND STS. PETER & PAUL'S Forming Faith at Religious Education

We are happy to welcome 286 students and 40 catechists to our K-12 religious education program. We're also privileged to have two seminarians, Deacon Caleb Scherzinger and 3rd-year seminarian, Keith Hart from St. Meinrad Seminary, joining our team. Please join us in welcoming these gentlemen to our parish community.

During the first semester, our students have had many opportunities to deepen their faith, develop a relationship with Jesus and learn about the Catholic Church's teachings and traditions. It is inspiring to see how many students make religious education a priority and attend classes regularly on Wednesday evenings! Below are some highlights of our Religious Ed activities:

- Living Rosary
- · Sacrament of Reconciliation preparation for 2nd graders
- · Faith deepening for Confirmation students
- Talks on natural family planning and abortion/contraception
- · All Souls' Day event in the cemetery
- · Theology of the Body classes for Grade 8 students
- · High School cantors lead songs before each class
- Volunteers lead the Rosary to welcome the students.

We were also excited to have our eighth-grade students participate in the "Vocation Awareness Program and Awards" sponsored by the Serra Club of Evansville. After listening to talks on marriage, priesthood/holy orders and consecrated religious life, students were asked to write an essay, research paper, skit or poem describing their understanding of vocations. Congratulations to this year's student representatives:

- Aubrie Ziliak, daughter of Jon & Laurie Ziliak (St. James)
- Tenley Beloat, daughter of Nathan & Rachel Beloat (Sts. Peter & Paul)
- Mia Sefton, daughter of Clinton and Amanda Sefton (Sts. Peter & Paul)



Joe and Jamie Kiesel

Joe, a lifetime Sts. Peter & Paul parishioner, runs a land surveying business, and Jamie, a 19-year parishioner, is a stay at home momma currently homeschooling 2 children. After serving as catechists for the Religious Education program on and off for the past 15 years, they're currently spending Wednesday nights with our 8th grade students.

High school sweethearts, Joe and Jamie have been together for 26 years With five kids - Landon (17), Lukas (15), Elizabeth (8), Emma (6) and Lee (4) plus eight goats and lots of chickens, the Kiesels are busy. But, on Wednesdays nights, everything pauses for Religious Ed.

If you could invite any saint to your classroom, who would it be? Blessed Carlo Acutis

What called you to volunteer?

A seed was planted many years ago by our marriage sponsor couple, Bill and Laura. We ended up teaching, but because of the seasons in our life we had to step away. We always knew we'd return.

What do you enjoy most about class? Connecting with the kiddos

and making an impact in their faith journey.

What's the #1 takeaway from your class? They are loved and that their goal in life is to get to Heaven.



Faith First The Kiesel family gathers following Elizabeth's First Communion.

Faith Formation



Sacrament of Baptism Classes:

All first time parents of St. James and Sts. Peter & Paul are required to attend an informative class on the Sacrament of Baptism before a child can be baptized. Godparents are welcome but are not required to attend. Classes are set for the second Tuesday of every other month. To register for a class or schedule a baptism, contact Breana Taylor at <u>btaylor@evdio.org</u>.

Upcoming classes are scheduled for Tuesday January 9, March 12 and May 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sts. Peter & Paul Parish Center basement.

Confirmation:

January 10: A Walk Through Mass class & saint reports due January 24: Confirmation interviews February 4: Confirmation retreat February 21: Discipleship class March 6: Parent meeting March 13: Service hours & letters due April 24: Sts. Peter & Paul and Holy Cross Confirmation practice April 27: Sts. Peter & Paul and Holy Cross Confirmation May 8: St. James Confirmation practice May 11: St. James Confirmation

First Holy Communion

March 12: Parent meeting April 25: First Communion Retreat April 28: Sts. Peter & Paul First Communion Mass May 5: St. James First Communion Mass

The Rescue Project - Coming This Lent 2024

We each have a different experience and unique relationship with Jesus. One of the goals of The Rescue Project, other than bringing you the Gospel in a new light, is to offer the opportunity to encounter Jesus in a whole new way or maybe even to encounter Him for the first time. Do we have God in a "box"? Do we really contemplate how big God is? Join us this Lent to see the Gospel in a whole new way. The Rescue Project is for anyone - Catholic, non-Catholic, believer, non-believer.

Maybe you think Jesus was someone in the history books. Come with an open mind; there's no judgement, no homework. You're welcome to share in the discussion or sit quietly and take it all in. There will be great food and great company! Watch for more details on this opportunity to join us this Lent. Scheduled for Sunday evenings at St. James, this event will be limited to register.



It gave me a new

perspective and

opened my mind

to a broader way

to think about

mv faith.

Scripture Studies

The fall Scripture Study covered Formed's "The Case For Jesus" by Brant Pitre. This study unveiled the Biblical and historical evidence for Christ. Our next study, "Lectio Mary - The New Eve" will begin in January. Watch the Bulletin for details.

Would you like to start your own group or gather your family for a study? You can access great material on FORMED.org and view it from home! If you need help getting started, call the Religious Ed office at 812-768-6457.

Grace Marriage

We are excited to bring Grace Marriage to our parishes! Grace Marriage is a 4-part series where couples can invest time, energy and creativity into their marriage and move it from average to life-giving! It doesn't matter if you are newly married or have been married 50 years or more. In order to have a strong marriage, you and your spouse must commit to never stop working together. There will always be an area of your marriage that requires your attention and best efforts. We have 15 couples participating this year from our parishes! This will be available annually. Watch for sign-ups next fall.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

As our OCIA candidates and catechumen enter into a period of deeper formation in the OCIA process, please keep them in your prayers.

St. James: Detlef Alle, Nicole Reese, Martin Winkler, Allie Williams, Wyatt England and Mackenzie McMichael

Sts. Peter & Paul: Erin Moore



Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic School



Students Fully Engaged in Science Education

At Sts. Peter & Paul, science education is a top priority. Students are introduced to a broad range of topics, such as landforms, weather, sun rays, soil and animals. The school utilizes FOSS (Full Option Science System) kits to provide a comprehensive curriculum, complete with videos and game supplements that keep students engaged.

What sets Sts. Peter & Paul apart is their approach to science education. Lauren Farmer, 1-5 science teacher, explains that the school has a dedicated science classroom and a teacher who is solely focused on science education. Students from first through fifth grade have 30-40 minutes of science instruction daily, which includes hands-on learning. Mrs. Nathalie Osborne teaches kindergarten science, and she, too, focuses on hands-on learning for the youngest students. Deep thinking and science investigations keep student sharp and ready to learn more.



Sts. Peter & Paul Stars Achieve Outstanding ILEARN Results

We are proud of our students' outstanding performance on the 2023 ILEARN assessment, the statewide test taken by all Indiana students. Our students ranked first in both Math and Science, and ninth in ELA. When considering all scores combined, our Stars ranked first in the state – an amazing accomplishment. We are incredibly proud of our students and their hard work in the classroom, as well as our dedicated staff who have helped them reach these heights.

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church December 2023

Trivia Night Success

The first ever Sts. Peter & Paul PTO Trivia Night was a BIG success! Thank you to everyone who supported this inaugural event!

Congratulations to ...

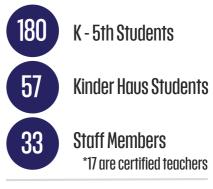
First Place: Trebeks Rejects

Last Place: Teachers Pets

Best Theme: Oldies but Goodies



School Numbers





ELECTRONIC GIVING PROGRAM

The electronic giving program allows you to have funds transferred directly to the parish's account for your Sunday collection donation. It is convenient and no cost to you. You may increase, decrease, or suspend your transfer any time by calling the parish office. Please complete the form below & return to the parish office. Contact Jane Rhodes at 812-768-6457 or jrhodes@evdio.org with questions. Thank you.

Sts. Peter & Paul Church, 211 N Vine St, Haubstadt IN 47639 Authorization Form

I hereby authorize <u>Sts. Peter & Paul Church</u> to initiate debit entries for Sunday collection tithing_to my/our account as indicated below and the financial institution named below to debit the same to such account. I/We acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my/our account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

Financial Institution Name		Name(s) on the Account	
	for Sunday collectio		
Type of Acct:CheckingSavings		Routing Number	Account Number
Frequency of transfer: Wee	ekly every Friday o	or	
Biw	eekly every other Fi	riday	
Mor	nthly on the 5 th of e	ach month (or next busine	ess day)
	in effect until Sts. Peter & Pa ad manner as to allow Sts. Pe		
Print Name		Signature	
Print Spouse Name (if joint account)		Spouse Signature (if joint account)	
E-mail Address		Date	
P	LEASE ATTACH COPY OF		
	ve your Sunday collection er		
			do not send Sunday envelopes.
	res, pieuse serie suitary en		de net send sunday envelopes.
	NS WITH ELECTRONI		
		ctronically to these special	l collections, which are normally in
the envelope packets, if inte			
		St. Vincent DePaul, The Lo	ord's Pantry, Haiti School Lunch
-	s, & Parish Endowments.		
For the Diocese Inclu	udes missions, both local & a	abroad (see list below).	
If you would like to donate	to any of these funds, pleas	e fill in the amount that yo	ou would like to give (either
weekly, biweekly, or month	ly according to your wishes	as listed above) & have de	educted from your account.
Maintenance Fund	Latin A	merica	Eastern European
Cemetery Fund		Relief Services	Holy Places
The Lord's Pantry			Peter's Pence
Christmas		s Retirement	Mission Sunday
Rice Bowl		 Development	Black & Indian Missions
St. Vincent De Pa		ndowment	Cemetery Endowment
Haiti School Lunc	h Program		School Endowment
Fr. Tony Vocation	nal Endowment		
F 6 1 . F			

_____Fr. Schroering Endowment

Thank You!

DERMIT NO. 23 HAUBSTADT IN 47639 **US POSTACE PAID NON-PROFIT ORG.**

Haubstadt, IN 47639 211 N. Vine Street Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

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This Advent season, invite someone to join you for Mass. A simple "join me" is all it takes to make a difference in someone's life.

Confession begins at 7:30 a.m. Thursday No Mass

Tuesday

6 a.m.

Wednesday

8 a.m.

Sunday 7 a.m. & 10 a.m. Confession begins at 6:30 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

Saturday

5 p.m.

Confession begins at 4:30 p.m.

COME & SEE NIGHT February 1 from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

New families are invited! Tour our school. meet the staff, and learn more about Sts. Peter & Paul!

STS. PETER & PAUL SCHOOL

STS. PETER & PAUL'S Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday 6:30 p.m. Confession begins at 6 p.m.

Friday 8 a.m. Confession begins at 7:30 a.m.