

Getting Ready for the Annual *St. Jude Festival* Event Grows Bigger and Better as Community Shares in Fellowship and Celebration

We're gearing up for the next annual St. Jude Festival. This year's events take place on May 28, 29, and 30. The event begins each day at 5 p.m. and lasts until 10 p.m., with Monte Carlo open later. Scott Strother, festival chairperson, tells us what to expect.

"We're introducing a couple of new items this year," Scott says. "We'll have pulled pork sandwiches and pulled pork nachos. Our door prizes and silent auction items are all new. We're bringing a vendor who will be hosting a silent auction of sports memorabilia. He's promised some really good items like signed jerseys. The silent auction is quite popular, available both online and in person. So, if you can't come out in person, bid online."

Last year, the silent auction alone raised over \$10,000 for the parish.

"We have our beer garden, always popular," Scott says. "We'll be selling new custom cups — they're engraved."

There will be no presale of the cups this year, so plan to get your 2026 cup on site.

"We have a new ride company, American Midway," Scott says. "They're promising a lot of new rides we've never had. DJ Tobias will be there Thursday night, and Project 19 will be there Friday night. Then Groove Smash will be on Saturday night. We've never had them before, but we're optimistic it'll bring a good crowd."

The festival is open to the whole community, bringing everyone together. What started as a small fundraiser for the parish 40 years ago has blossomed into a community-wide event.



Alex and Rachel Martinez at the table, try their hand at blackjack with Mike Ampil dealing at the Men's Club-run Monte Carlo.

Getting Ready for the Annual St. Jude Festival

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“It’s grown over the years,” Scott says. “It raises money for the school and parish. In the past, we’ve replaced air conditioning units in both the church and school. A little has gone to church add-ons, replacing things inside. It raises money to unify the campus and support the parish in general. We can’t do this without the community.”

The festival is St. Jude’s biggest event of the year.

“This is really the only fundraiser that the parish does as a whole,” Scott says. “Most of the other things we’re giving back to the communities, like our Autumn Fest, where we’re not charging people.”

Tickets will still be \$1 each, and most costs are expected to remain the same as last year — however, prices are subject to change.

“The kids’ games are going to be a dollar each,” Scott says. “Papa Curl will be coming in to help serve ice cream for everybody, and Kona Ice will be here again doing snow cones. I believe the Scouts are coming in selling Lemon Shake Ups. It takes the whole community. It’s awesome that these companies and the Scouts want to participate in making this festival better.”

Several vendors and many volunteers help make this annual event

possible. Volunteers will sign up soon using the SignUpGenius link on the festival website. Shifts typically last three hours, but folks can email Scott to offer specific availability if the times listed don’t work. Sponsorships are also needed.

“This year, there are new categories for sponsorships,” Scott says. “They’ve revamped that. We’ll always take donations for the silent auction until about a week before, when we start loading everything onto the website.

“It takes volunteers before and after,” he adds. “We will gladly find a place where you can help out.”

Each year, the event is bigger and better than before, as the community draws together for this festival. We hope to host the same large crowd, which means not only fellowship and community bonding, but also lots of volunteers.

“Stewardship is part of what Christ asked us to do,” Scott says. “He asked us to be good stewards of our communities and welcome everybody. This is a great way to do that. You’re serving food, greeting somebody. They may have never stepped foot on a church campus. This allows them to come in, to welcome people, and have a good time. That’s all it takes for somebody to see that Christ is there for us all.”



Stacy Chaney (at right) runs one of the many children’s games during the 2025 Festival.



Young parishioners enjoy the parish festival last year.



(From left) Laura Buchmeier, Jen Oskins, and Susie Springer sell instant bingo tickets under the big tent.



Joey Cobb (seated far right) deals at the Monte Carlo table while Chase Steinbrunner stands behind, cheering on the blackjack winners.

Visit the festival website for details on ticket/food pricing or the festival schedule of events — www.stjudeindy.org/parish-life/parish-festival. Volunteers, sponsors, and donors to the silent auction may find information there as well. For further questions, email Scott Strother at scottcstrother@gmail.com.

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Learning from Mary's Faithful "Yes"

Dear Parishioners,

The month of May has long been associated with honoring mothers and with a special devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. As we reflect on the gift of motherhood, we are also invited to look to Mary as a model of faithful discipleship and generous trust in God. Her life offers us a powerful example of what it means to say "yes" to the Lord.

Mary's faith was not rooted in certainty or comfort. When she was asked to cooperate with God's plan, she did not have all the answers. Yet she responded with trust, placing her life fully in God's hands. Her example reminds us that discipleship often requires courage, humility, and a willingness to trust God even when the path ahead is unclear.

Motherhood, in its many forms, reflects this same spirit of self-giving love. Mothers offer their time, energy, patience, and care in countless unseen ways. Their generosity mirrors the kind of stewardship to which all disciples are called — a willingness to give of ourselves for the good of others.

Mary teaches us that stewardship begins with openness to God's will. By offering her life completely to Him, she became a participant in God's saving work. In our own lives, stewardship invites us to offer our time, talents, and resources with the same spirit of trust and love.

As a parish community, we are strengthened when we follow this example. When parishioners give generously and serve faithfully, the Church becomes a place of nurture, support, and hope. Through shared commitment, faith is passed on and the love of Christ is made visible.

During this month of May, may we honor mothers with gratitude and look to Mary as our guide. May her example inspire us to live with faith, generosity, and trust, offering our lives to God in loving service.

In Christ,



Fr. Peter Marshall
Pastor



Vacation Bible School 2026

Offering Our Young Parishioners a Great Week of Fun



This summer, St. Jude Catholic Church will once again welcome children and families for a joyful and fun-filled week of Vacation Bible School. This year it will be held June 8 through 12, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Each summer, VBS brings the parish to life with music, learning, laughter, and a shared commitment to helping form and develop the faith of the youngest parishioners.

This year's theme, "Marvelous Mystery: The Mass Comes Alive," will invite the children to discover the beauty and meaning of the Mass in a way that is engaging, hands-on, and deeply rooted in Catholic teaching.

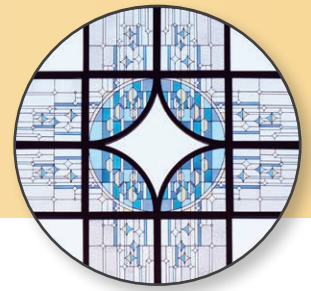
The theme comes from the CatChat Catholic VBS series, a curriculum that VBS director Lindsey Knust has come to appreciate over the years.

"I really love the CatChat VBS programs," Lindsey says. "They are extremely organized, have great recommendations for activities and, most importantly, the Catholic teaching is solid."

Registration opened in mid-March and will remain available through the start of VBS. Families are encouraged to register at least a week prior to the start to help with planning. The cost is \$20 per child with a \$40 family maximum. This covers the curriculum materials, music, snacks, craft supplies, and decorations that help bring the theme to life.

VBS is open to children ages 4 through incoming fifth-graders. Volunteers are comprised of incoming sixth-graders to





With, Fun, and Community



adults. Each morning begins with an open assembly, featuring prayer, music, virtue demonstrations, a Bible verse, a saint of the day, and a skit performed by the youth volunteers. Throughout the day, children rotate through five themed stations, including faith, crafts, games, music, and snacks. Each station is designed to reinforce the day's lesson. The day concludes with a closing ceremony of songs and prayer.

“The programs selected are specifically Catholic and uphold Catholic doctrine,” Lindsey says. “Every single thing the children do throughout the day — from the snacks they eat to the games they play — is tied to whatever they are learning about their faith that day. All the volunteers are coached to ‘stick to the script’ as much as possible so that we can ensure solid teaching of the faith

throughout their entire day.”

Volunteers play a vital role in making VBS possible. Whether helping with stations, decorating, or assisting with groups, volunteers offer a beautiful act of service that supports the formation of the children at St. Jude. The time commitment, unless volunteering as a station leader, is from about 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day during the week of the program.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Lindsey Knust at lnknust87@gmail.com.





Patron Saint of Holy Fun

The Faith Journey of St. Philip Neri

Can a saint have fun on the way to attaining holiness?

Many would say that St. Philip Neri definitely fits that bill.

Born in 1515 in Florence, Italy, St. Philip Neri showed his fun side from a young age. One such incident almost cost him his life.

Seeing a donkey loaded with fruit

for market, the impulsive and spontaneous little boy jumped on the donkey's back. Surprised, the donkey lost his footing and, along with the fruit and young Philip, tumbled into a cellar. Miraculously, Philip was unhurt.

Philip's father struggled financially, so 18-year-old Philip was sent to work with an older cousin who was a successful businessman. During this time, Philip found a favorite place to pray in a spot upon a mountain that had been turned into a chapel.

During these hours of prayer, Philip is said to have decided to leave worldly success behind and dedicate his life to God.

Eventually, Philip went to Rome. In 1548, Philip formed a confraternity with other laymen to minister to pilgrims who came to Rome without food or shelter. The spiritual director of the confraternity convinced Philip he could do even more work as a priest. After receiving instruction from this priest, Philip was ordained in 1551.

As a young priest, Philip learned to love hearing confessions. Young men especially found in him the wisdom and direction they needed to grow spiritually. But Philip began to realize these young men needed something more than absolution — they needed guidance. So, Philip began asking the young men to come by in the early afternoon to discuss spiritual readings, and then to stay for prayer in the evening.

Philip understood it wasn't enough to tell young people not to do something — you had to give them something to do in its place. So, at Carnival time, when the worst excesses were encouraged, Philip organized a pilgrimage to the Seven Churches with a picnic, accompanied by instrumental music for the midday break. After walking 12

miles in one day, everyone was too tired to be tempted!

Philip was known to be spontaneous and unpredictable, charming and humorous. He seemed to sense the different ways to bring people to God. One man came to the Oratory just to make fun of it. Philip wouldn't let the others throw him out or speak against him. He told them to be patient, and eventually the man became a Dominican. On the other hand, when he met a condemned man who refused to listen to any pleas for repentance, Philip didn't try gentle words. Instead, Philip grabbed the man by the collar and threw him to the ground. The move shocked the criminal into repentance, and he made a full confession.

Humility was the most important virtue he tried to teach others, as he continually worked to learn it himself. Some of his lessons in humility seem cruel, but they were tinged with humor — like practical jokes — and were related with gratitude by the people they helped. His lessons always seemed to be tailored directly to what the person needed.

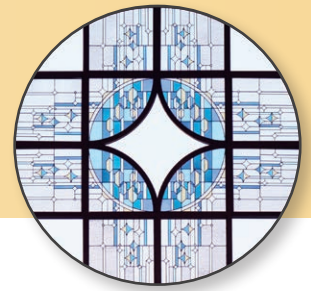
Philip did not escape this spiritual mortification himself. As with others, his own humbling held humor. There are stories of him wearing ridiculous clothes or walking around with half his beard shaved off. The greater his reputation for holiness, the sillier he wanted to seem.

But Philip was very serious about prayer. He was so easily carried away that he refused to preach in public and could not celebrate Mass with others around. But when asked how to pray, his answer was, "Be humble and obedient and the Holy Spirit will teach you."

Philip died in 1595 after a long illness. His feast day is on May 26, just in time to kick off the season of summertime fun.

Prayer to St. Philip Neri:

*St. Philip Neri, we take ourselves far too seriously most of the time. Help us to add humor to our perspective — remembering always that humor is a gift from God.
Amen.*



The *Funeral Visitation Support* Ministry *Offering Hospitality and Compassion to Grieving Families*



Ministry volunteers Kathleen and Jim Tilson set up a table of flowers before a visitation.

When a family loses a loved one, the support and thoughtfulness of a community can be a powerful source of comfort. At St. Jude Catholic Church, the Funeral Visitation Support Ministry helps with funeral details to alleviate the mental load of the grieving family during their difficult time. Volunteers show their support through this act of service and hospitality.

Ed Tolle leads the Funeral Visitation Support Ministry. In his role, he coordinates volunteers to meet with the funeral director and make sure everything is in place, including extra tables, kneelers, and flowers. He explains that many people who arrive at the church, including the funeral directors, are unfamiliar with the building and rely on these parishioners to answer any questions.

“If there’s a viewing, I bring in two to four people an hour before to help set up,” Ed says. “When the family arrives, we get them whatever they need. It’s really all about just being there. When it’s over, we are the ones who clean up the narthex. The family has enough to worry about.”

Ed explains that he got involved in this ministry about three years ago, even though he describes himself as initially averse to funerals. But as he has continued to contribute his time to supporting grieving families, the experience has been rewarding.

“I never liked to go to funerals myself,” Ed says. “But I knew it was time to do something for the parish. And it’s been a great help to me. It’s a way to give back and conquer some fears of our own.”

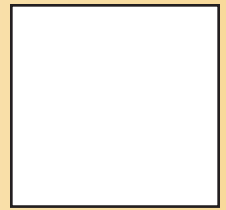
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— ED TOLLE



Flowers are arranged ahead of a visitation.



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MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Mass

Saturday Anticipation — 4:00 p.m.

Sunday — 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m.

Weekday Mass

Monday/Wednesday/Friday — 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday/Thursday — 6:00 p.m.

Holy Day Mass

See Bulletin

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday/Thursday — 5:00-5:45 p.m.

Saturday — 3:00-3:45 p.m.

Anytime by appointment

The Funeral Visitation Support Ministry

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Ed says he has over 20 couples on his volunteer list. When there is a funeral on the church calendar, Ed sends out the information via SignUpGenius. Anyone who wants to be involved can help, and the more people on the ministry roster, the easier it is to find volunteers to fill positions on SignUpGenius.

Ed says that serving in this ministry is an easy way to serve the Church — it is not physically demanding, and it does not require a lot of time. Nevertheless, the hospitality and kindness shown to grieving families is truly meaningful.

“Both the families and funeral directors really appreciate us,” Ed says. “It takes a load off the family. This is a way to give back and show someone you care.”



To assist with the Funeral Visitation Support Ministry, contact the parish office at 317-786-4371, or reach out to Ed Tolle at 317-514-4693 or tolle.edward@gmail.com.