



The MESSAGE

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He is risen!



The Message photos by Tim Lilley

Bishop Joseph M. Siegel, in the photo at right, censes the altar at St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville during the April 16 Mass of the Vigil in the Holy Night. In the photo above, Bishop Siegel speaks to the Catechumens and their sponsors, at left, and Candidates and their sponsors at the beginning of the Celebration of Confirmation. He baptized the Catechumens just before the Celebration of Confirmation. See additional photos from Holy Week on pages 2, 5 and 8.



Bishop Siegel names Dean Happe diocesan Chancellor/COO

BY TIM LILLEY
The Message editor

Bishop Joseph M. Siegel has appointed Diocesan Finance Officer Dean Happe to replace Tim McGuire as Chancellor/Chief Operating Office. Dean will assume his new duties May 2, and a search will begin for a new Diocesan Finance Officer.

Bishop Siegel said, "I am pleased to announce that, after a thorough search process, I have named Dean Happe our new Chancellor/Chief Operating Officer. Along with a strong faith, a deep commitment to the mission of the Church and a wealth of professional expertise and experience, Dean also brings a comprehensive understanding of our parishes, diocesan offices and ministries. I believe he will make a great contribution to the work of our local Church in this position as he has as Chief Financial Officer for the past 2 ½ years. I look forward to working with him as Chancellor/COO."

"As Dean prepares to take on this new role, I again want to recognize and thank Tim McGuire for his dedicated work for the diocese over the past 14 years."

A member of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Haubstadt, Dean joined the diocesan staff in 2019 after serving on the Diocesan Finance Council (2004-2015), and as Sts.



DEAN HAPPE

Peter and Paul Finance Chairman (1994-2017).

Dean is an Evansville native and son of St. Joseph Parish in Vanderburgh County. He attended St. Joseph School and graduated from Mater Dei High School. He earned a B.S. in Accounting from the University of Southern Indiana, is a CPA, and has attended Butler University's Executive Leadership Program and Indiana University's Kelly School of Business Leadership Development Program.

Dean said, "I have been blessed to serve the diocese as the Diocesan Finance Officer over the last 2 ½ years, and I am humbled to now serve in this new role. I can only hope to continue the high standard Tim set during his 14 years of dedicated service. I look forward to working with the wonderful clergy of our diocese, the talented staffs of the Catholic Center and Catholic Charities, and all of the parishes and schools to help them deliver the many critical ministries to the people of our diocese."

Dean and his wife Laura, a Haubstadt native, will celebrate their 28th wedding anniversary in October. They have three children: Drew, 26, of Louisville, Kentucky, who is an actuarial analyst; Regan, 21, a Theology teacher at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis; and Wade, 20, a sophomore at Purdue University.

Reitz Memorial High School names Aaron M. Schmitt Principal

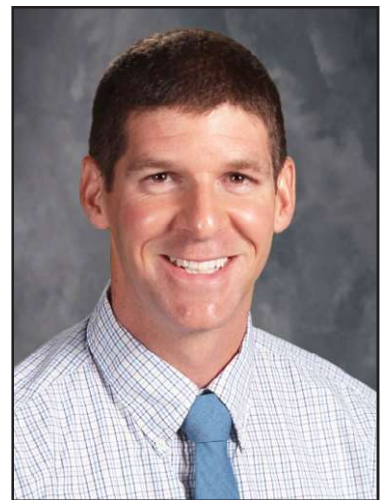
SPECIAL TO THE MESSAGE

Reitz Memorial High School has appointed Aaron M. Schmitt as the Evansville school's next principal. He currently serves as a social studies teacher and department chair at Reitz Memorial.

As Principal, Schmitt will be responsible for the academic affairs and day-to-day operations of the school. He will assume his duties as principal July 1.

A 2004 Reitz Memorial graduate, Schmitt earned a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education: Social Science from the University of Southern Indiana in 2009, and a master's degree in Educational Psychology with a specialization in gifted and talented programs from Ball State University in 2015. He has taught at Reitz Memorial High School since 2009. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he is the junior varsity baseball coach and moderator of numerous school clubs.

Reitz Memorial President Christian Mocek said, "Aaron is a dynamic and skilled educator who is well-loved by his students and colleagues. He has an unmatched passion for Catholic education and Reitz Memorial High School. As an alum and current teacher, he has a deep respect for the traditions that make this school community special. Reitz Memorial will be well-served



AARON M. SCHMITT

under his leadership."

"Reitz Memorial High School stands squarely on a living tradition of passing on the Catholic faith while also teaching the subjects that best prepare our students for a productive, rewarding, holy life," said Benedictine Father Godfrey Mullen, Rector of St. Benedict Cathedral and Bishop Joseph M. Siegel's Priest-Delegate to Reitz Memorial High School. "Directing the daily operations of the school, the principal has a primary responsibility for assuring that this mission is carried out effectively."

"I joyfully welcome Aaron as principal. I know him to be a man of faith; a man of moral conviction; a gentle and caring father; a

See **PRINCIPAL**, page 6

Holy Week



St. Benedict Cathedral Director of Music Jeremy Korba, *left*, parishioner John Michael O’Leary and cathedral Rector Benedictine Father Godfrey Mullen sing the Exsultet (Easter Proclamation) in the darkened (except for the light above them) sanctuary at the beginning of the Vigil Mass.



The Message photos by Tim Lilley
Bishop Siegel blesses the paschal candle outside the rear of St. Benedict Cathedral at the very beginning of the Vigil Mass. Attendees joined him outside, then all processed into the sanctuary.



Bishop Siegel blesses attendees with the Book of the Gospels after Deacon David Rice, *left*, proclaimed Luke’s account of Jesus’ Resurrection.



After baptizing the Catechumens and leading attendees in the renewal of their baptismal vows, Bishop Siegel processed through the sanctuary sprinkling holy water on all. Director of Worship Matt Miller assisted.

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Bishop's Schedule

Divine Mercy Sunday Mass, Divine Mercy Parish, St. Anthony, 10 a.m. EDT, Sunday, April 24

Mass, Mater Dei High School, Evansville, 8:50 a.m. CDT, Monday, April 25

FOCUS Luncheon, Evansville, 12 p.m. CDT, Tuesday, April 26

Confirmation Mass, Resurrection Church, Evansville, 6 p.m. CDT, Tuesday, April 26

Opening Prayer, Disability Ministry Education Day, Catholic Center, Evansville, 9:15 a.m. CDT, Thursday, April 28

Mass, Sarto Chapel, Evansville, 11:30 a.m. CDT, Thursday, April 28

Meeting, Diocesan Finance Council, Catholic Center, Evansville, 3 p.m. CDT, Thursday, April 28

Knights of Columbus State Convention, Ft. Wayne, April 29 – May 1, 2022

Faith and Life

Continued from page 4

Like Peter, we might have also denied Jesus, out of fear, by not recognizing him and his teachings publicly in crucial moments of our lives — even when we have witnessed his glorious power. And of course, the human tendency to deny Jesus out of fear is not a surprise since we know that “our hearts are deceitful” (see *Jeremiah 17:9*). Our denial of Jesus has terrible consequences in our relationship with God, in our lives, in the lives of those we love and in creation. Amid those terrible consequences, Jesus wants to know only one thing: “Do you love me?”

What does it look like from a sacramental perspective? We come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation with heavy hearts, trying to confess our sins with guilt that burdens us beyond measure. And Jesus, even before we open our lips, asks us: “Do you love me?” But, what kind of love is this?

It is a twofold love — agape and philos. Agape is the love of God and Christ to us, and our love to him and our fellow creatures, as inspired by His love for us (Logos Dictionary). So, the Risen Jesus asks Peter twice: “Do you love me and your fellow brothers and sisters as I have loved you” (i.e. completely, totally, and unconditionally)? Philos is the love that invites us to a friendship with God. So, Jesus asks Peter once: Do you love me as a friend? It seems to me that every time we deny Jesus, he invites us to love him and our fellow humans as he has loved us, and to restore our friendship with him, our neighbors and our enemies.

Loving Jesus, our neighbors and our enemies as he has loved us requires contemplating what he is doing for us even when we are actively denying him with our thoughts, words and actions. Ask yourself: When we deny Jesus, Has he stopped providing for us? Has he denied his grace in the Sacraments? Has he punished us? The answer to each question is no.

The love of the Risen Jesus for us is the certitude of our redemption, salvation, and deliverance. It is the experience of the Risen Lord’s mercy!

If Jesus would ask us today: Do you love me and your fellow humans as I have loved you? Would you answer like Peter: “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” History shows that Peter did! Would you?

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.

Holy Week

Bishop Joseph M. Siegel censes the Blessed Sacrament at the altar in the rear of St. Benedict Cathedral following the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday (April 14). The Bishop processed through the sanctuary from the main altar with the Blessed Sacrament, which remained reposed at the back altar until the Communion service during the Good Friday Celebration of the Passion of the Lord.



Bishop Siegel washes the foot of Anna Dus, 4, as her mom Kassi, at left, and dad Nick look on during the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday (April 14). Kassi teaches at St Benedict Cathedral School, and Nick came into full communion with the Church during the Easter Vigil (April 16).



During the annual diocesan Chrism Mass, held April 12 at St. Benedict Cathedral, Bishop Siegel, at left, presides as priests of the Diocese of Evansville, standing behind the altar, renew their priestly vows.



After blessing the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens, Bishop Siegel blesses the Sacred Chrism during the Chrism Mass.



Holy Week



The Message photos by Tim Lilley
For the first time since 2019, faithful from across the Diocese of Evansville filled St. Benedict Cathedral to capacity April 12 for the Chrism Mass. The cathedral Facebook page and the diocese’s YouTube channel also livestreamed the Mass.



In this April 10 photo, Bishop Siegel opens the 10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass at St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville by blessing palms held by the faithful. All processed into the cathedral after the blessing for continuation of the Mass.



Bishop Siegel prostrates himself before the altar of St. Benedict Cathedral at the beginning of the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion on Good Friday (April 15).



Bishop Siegel uncovers a portion of the crucifix during the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion, on Good Friday.



Bishop Siegel begins the Adoration of the Holy Cross during the Good Friday Celebration of the Lord’s Passion.

THIS WEEK’S ANSWERS

H	O	R	N		A	C	R	I	D		A	L	I	T
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