



The MESSAGE

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Diocesan Youth Day draws hundreds for faith, fellowship and fun



Submitted photo
Bishop Joseph M. Siegel, *second from left*, celebrates a closing Mass for Diocesan Youth Day at Holy Redeemer Parish in Evansville.

By MEGAN ERBACHER
The Message editor

Father Jonathan Meyer told a gymnasium full of about 225 high school students and their chaperones that Bishop Joseph M. Siegel had everything he needed in that room to set the Diocese

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Diocesan Blue Mass honors law enforcement, first responders

By MEGAN ERBACHER
The Message editor

Members of the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office, Evansville Police Department, Evansville Fire Department, other first responders and retired officers gathered Sept. 25 at Good Shepherd Parish in Evansville as Bishop Joseph M. Siegel celebrated the Diocese of Evansville's 2024 Blue Mass.

The all-school Mass included Good Shepherd students, faculty, staff, parishioners, as well as the families of the first responders.

Concelebrants included Good Shepherd pastor Father Zach Etienne and Father Lowell Will, senior priest of the Diocese. Deacon Robert Mattingly of St. Boniface Parish assisted, and Matt Miller, diocesan director of the Office of Worship, served as master of ceremonies.

The Church began celebrating the Blue Mass dating back to 1934. It's celebrated annually across the nation on



The Message photo by Megan Erbacher
Local law enforcement officers and first responders, both active and retired, listen to Bishop Joseph M. Siegel, *not pictured*, as he welcomes all to the Sept. 25 Blue Mass at Good Shepherd Parish in Evansville.

or near the Sept. 29 Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, patron of those in public safety and who protect others.

Bishop Siegel said it was an honor

as he welcomed all first responders and public safety servants in attendance and joined them in praying for

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St. Wendel goes blue to celebrate National Blue Ribbon status

By MEGAN ERBACHER
The Message editor

Despite red being St. Wendel School's color, Principal Hallie Scheu smiled as she said, "We look really good in blue."

St. Wendel Parish was a sea of blue t-shirts during the schoolwide Mass Sept. 26 in honor of St. Wendel being named a 2024 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. On Sept. 23, DOE officials said the prestigious recognition highlights schools that excel in academic performance or make significant strides in closing achievement gaps

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The Message photo by Megan Erbacher
St. Wendel School students, faculty and staff pose for a group photo Sept. 26 wearing blue t-shirts in honor of being named a 2024 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

'Revival of prayer and action' needed to end abortion, says US bishops' pro-life chair

By GINA CHRISTIAN
OSV News

Ahead of Respect Life Month, the pro-life committee chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is urging "a revival of prayer and action" to end abortion and uphold the sanctity of human life.

A statement for the October observance, written by Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, was released by the USCCB Sept. 19 and posted to

the website of the USCCB's Respect Life Month initiative. The effort traces its origins to 1972, just prior to the U.S. Supreme Court rulings on Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton, the two 1973 decisions that broadly legalized abortion.

In his message, Bishop Burbidge stressed that "Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist, gives us the fullness of life," and "calls each of us to respect that gift of life in every human person."

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