



The MESSAGE

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Chrism Mass is April 15



Special to The Message

Bishop Joseph M. Siegel will celebrate the Diocese of Evansville's 2025 Chrism Mass at 5:30 p.m. CDT April 15 at St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville. At this Mass, the holy oils used throughout the year will be blessed and consecrated, and the priests of the diocese will make a public renewal of their priestly promises to serve Christ and the Church. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available before Mass and an opportunity to receive a plenary indulgence.

All are invited to attend, show your support for the service of our priests, and pray together as a diocese in those holy days leading up to Easter.

Source + Summit draws in over 600 youth, team members

By JOHN ROHLF
The Message assistant editor

With over 475 youth participants and 165 team members, most of which were youth and young adults, this year's Source + Summit retreat was one of their largest retreats.

The youth and team members participated in the three-day retreat at Reitz Memorial High School in Evansville. The retreat featured numerous speakers, daily Mass, time for adoration and Reconciliation and a Eucharistic healing service.

Source + Summit organizer Gail Shetler said the hope for the retreat is that each participant now has a deeper and firmer relationship with Jesus, as well as a better understanding of their Catholic faith and developed new friendships with other participants from other areas of the Diocese of Evansville.

"I am very grateful to God for all of the many graces that were poured out on all who were there," Shetler said. "He

promised he would in this Year of Jubilee of Hope and He was true to his word.

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The Message photo by John Rohlf
Youth participants gather around the Monstrance during the Source + Summit retreat April 5.

ICC tracking key bills as legislative session nears finish line



By VICTORIA ARTHUR
Statehouse Correspondent for
Indiana's Catholic Newspapers

With the 2025 General Assembly in its final few weeks, the Indiana Catholic

Conference (ICC) and its allies are calling for engagement on pivotal legislation regarding school choice, immigration and other key issues.

Universal school choice is within reach for Indiana families this year, as draft versions of the state budget proposed by Gov. Mike Braun and the Indiana House of Representatives called for removal of the income cap on the current Choice Scholarship Program, more commonly known as the voucher program. School choice has faced a more uncertain path in the Senate, which was set to release its version of the state budget at press time.

"We are now getting down to the nitty gritty of the legislative session," said John Elcesser, executive director of the Indiana Non-Public Education Association (INPEA). "All eyes are on the April revenue forecast, set for release on the 16th, which will certainly have an impact on all K-12 education funding. Choice advocates are still optimistic about achieving universal school choice, but nothing is a done deal. It is very important that all non-public school advocates reach out to their legislators."

In the last budget year, 2023, the Indiana General Assembly expanded school choice eligibility to 97 percent of families statewide. While advocates hailed near-universal school choice as a

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St. Henry, Ferdinand, hosts 2025 Rogation Mass to celebrate farming



The Message photo by Megan Erbacher
Bishop Joseph M. Siegel leads the opening prayer followed by the Litany of St. Isidore the Farmer at the beginning of the Diocese of Evansville's annual Rogation Mass at St. Henry Church in Ferdinand April 1. Pictured are Father John Pfister, left, Father Riji George, Bishop Siegel, Matt Miller and Deacon James King.

By MEGAN ERBACHER
The Message editor

A large crowd of parishioners and faithful from across the Diocese of Evansville gathered outside St. Henry Church in Ferdinand April 1 for the Diocese of Evansville's annual Rogation Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph M. Siegel.

St. Henry and the Diocesan Office of Catholic Rural Life sponsored the Mass for farmers, gardeners and stewards of

God's creation. The Mass celebrates the importance of farming and asks for God's blessings and mercy during the planting and harvest seasons. The service was for all who eat and care for the earth.

The celebration started outside with a procession into the church. Father John Boeglin thanked Bishop Siegel for celebrating the annual Rogation Mass as he welcomed everyone. Father Boeglin explained the celebration is to

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