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Father Kessler celebrates 50th anniversary of priesthood ordination

By JOHN ROHLF
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On the 50th anniversary of his priesthood ordination, Father Tom Kessler celebrated a Jubilee Mass for his 50 years of service as a diocesan priest.

Father Kessler, a senior priest of the Diocese of Evansville, celebrated the Mass June 7 at Christ the King Church in Evansville, which is part of Annunciation Parish. Bishop Joseph M. Siegel attended the Mass. Six priests concelebrated the Mass, including diocesan priests Father Benny Chacko, pastor of



The Message photo by John Rohlf
Father Kessler delivers the homily during the Jubilee Mass.

Annunciation Parish in Evansville; Father John Pfister, parochial vicar of Annunciation Parish in Evansville;

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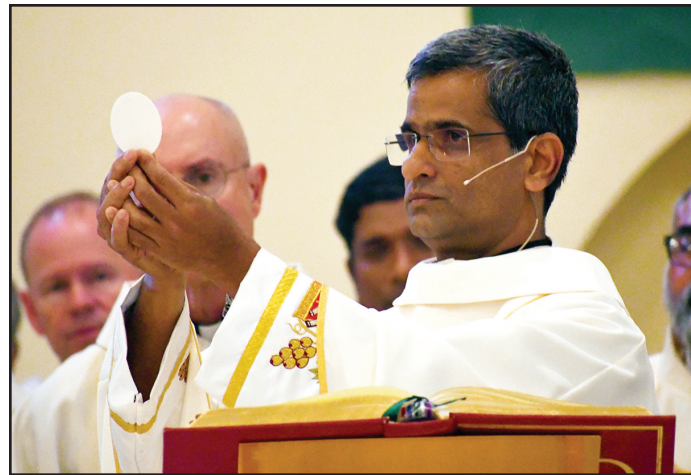
Father Biju celebrates 25 years of priestly ministry

By JOHN ROHLF
The Message
assistant editor

Father Biju Thomas celebrated 25 years of priesthood with a Jubilee Mass June 8.

Father Thomas, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Huntingburg, celebrated the Jubilee Mass at St. Mary Parish. Father Biju was ordained to the priesthood May 3, 2000, in the Archdiocese of Imphal, India. Father Biju has served in the Diocese of Evansville since 2015.

Father Thomas has been pastor of St. Mary Parish in Huntingburg since June 2021. At the end of the Jubilee Mass, Father Thomas expressed thanks to God for the opportunity to serve the



The Message photo by John Rohlf
Father Biju Thomas raises the host during Consecration at the Jubilee Mass for his 25th anniversary of priesthood ordination. Father Biju was ordained to the priesthood May 3, 2000, in the Archdiocese of Imphal, India.

last 25 years as a priest.

"Despite my unworthiness, he has called me to be his priest. And he's faithful and true," Father Thomas said. "And his love carried me through. I

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St. Benedict Cathedral among diocesan parishes holding Corpus Christi Procession

By JOHN PAYNE
Special to The Message

The origins of the feast of Corpus Christi began over 800 years ago around the city of Liège — in present-day Belgium — with a young woman known as Juliana of Mont-Cornillon, who would be officially recognized as a saint by Pope Pius IX in 1869. The



The Message file photo
Father Alex Zenthoefer, rector of St. Benedict Cathedral and diocesan Vicar General, carries the Monstrance during last year's Eucharistic procession on Corpus Christi.

details of her life are transmitted in a vita written not long after her death in 1258.

In a mystical encounter, Christ is reported to have told her that the moon represented the Church while the gap signified the lack of a feast day that he desired. He commissioned St. Juliana with the task of effecting the institution of a feast of his body and blood, a focus of Holy Thursday that was overshadowed by the washing of the feet and the remembrance of the Lord's Passion.

In the apparitions, Christ wished that the Eucharist, in addition to its daily celebration, would receive special focus

with its own feast, as the honor due to it could regularly be tepid or even absent. St. Juliana did not esteem herself worthy for such a feat, but after 20 years of begging to be released from it and repeatedly receiving the response that she was in fact the woman for the job, she finally accepted her mission.

At this point, the feast was spreading, but it was still a local affair when St. Juliana died in 1258.

In 1264, Urban IV issued the papal bull *Transiturus de hoc mundo*, which instituted the Feast of Corpus Christi

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List of Corpus Christi Processions

The following list of 2025 Corpus Christi Processions was provided to us by parishes in the diocese.

June 21

St. Isidore the Farmer Parish, Celestine, Procession following 4:30 p.m. EDT Mass at St. Peter Celestine Church.

June 22

Annunciation Parish, Evansville, Procession after 11 a.m. CDT Bilingual Mass at Holy Spirit Church. Food and fellowship following the Procession.

Holy Cross Parish, Fort Branch, Procession immediately following the 8:30 a.m. CDT Mass. The procession will be less than one mile and is expected to last about 45 minutes.

Holy Family Parish, Jasper, Procession after the 7:30 a.m. EDT Mass. They will process around parish grounds.

Holy Redeemer Parish, Evansville, Procession following the 9 a.m. CDT Mass. They will begin with a time of exposition and adoration. The Procession will then begin. The Procession will end with Benediction inside Holy Redeemer Church.

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