



The MESSAGE

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St. Philip School earns state and national Blue Ribbon School recognition



Special to The Message

The Indiana Department of Education has named St. Philip School in Posey County an Indiana Blue Ribbon School for 2025.

In the inaugural year of the state's recognition program, IDOE officials explained that the prestigious recognition is a reflection of the school's exemplary academic performance and innovative efforts to meet the needs of all learners.

"By fostering an environment where excellence is not only expected, but achieved, your school stands as a model for others across our state and nation," Indiana Secretary of Education Dr. Katie Jenner and Indiana Gov. Mike Braun stated in a joint press release.

In addition to the state's award, the Council for American Private Education (CAPE) also named St. Philip School a 2025 Blue Ribbon School. CAPE, a national organization based in

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Bishop Siegel celebrates 40 Days for Life closing Mass

By Megan Erbacher
The Message editor

On Nov. 2, All Souls Day, Bishop Joseph M. Siegel celebrated a closing Mass for 40 Days for Life at St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville.

In his welcome at the beginning of Mass, Bishop Siegel noted that on Nov. 1, we celebrated the Solemnity of All the Saints in heaven. On Nov. 2, he said the Church calls us to pray for the faithful departed — for all those who are undergoing the process of purification to see God face-to-face.

As we remember all of our faithful departed at the Nov. 2 Mass, Bishop Siegel noted that we also close the 40 Days for Life. Forty days in which we have prayed, studied and worked to build a culture of life in our Diocese but also in our nation, he said.

Father Tyler Underhill, parochial vicar of St. Benedict Cathedral, concelebrated Mass with Bishop Siegel. Deacon Dave Rice assisted, and Matt

Miller served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Mass.

During his homily, Father Underhill thanked Bishop Siegel for allowing him to preach on All Souls Day. He mentioned that the lit candles at the front of the cathedral in front of the Blessed Virgin were there to represent all those parishioners who died in the past year.

"Today, we celebrate All Souls Day, which, in a particular way, is all of those who have died," he said. "All those faithful departed who haven't been named saints. Today's liturgy, in some ways, is kind of like a large funeral."



The Message photo by Megan Erbacher
Father Tyler Underhill, parochial vicar of St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville, delivers the homily during Mass Nov. 2.

Father Underhill noted the opening prayer, which said, "Listen kindly to

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Serra Club holds annual Vocations Awareness Banquet



The Serra Club honored 42 eighth graders at this year's Vocations Awareness luncheon. The 42 recipients represented 19 different diocesan parishes and schools. The program, which coincided with National Vocations Awareness Week Nov. 2-8, recognizes students for creating projects focused on different vocations, including priesthood, diaconate, religious life, marriage and lay ministry. *The Message will provide full coverage of the event in the Nov. 14 issue.*

The Message photos by John Rohlf

Ferdinand Christkindlmarkt features new German-made Christmas pyramid

Special to The Message

The 28th Annual Ferdinand Christkindlmarkt has a new feature this holiday season: A 32-foot-tall German-made Christmas Pyramid. To help share the story and heritage of Ferdinand, the town commissioned Ergzebirgische Holzkunst of Germany to build the pyramid, which will be on display from Nov. 1 through the Epiphany, Jan. 6, 2026, at 1150 Main Street in Ferdinand.

See **PYRAMID**, page 8

Submitted photo
An artist from Ergzebirgische Holzkunst of Germany is busy at work adding touches to Christmas angels that stand on the top tier of Ferdinand's German-made Christmas Pyramid.

