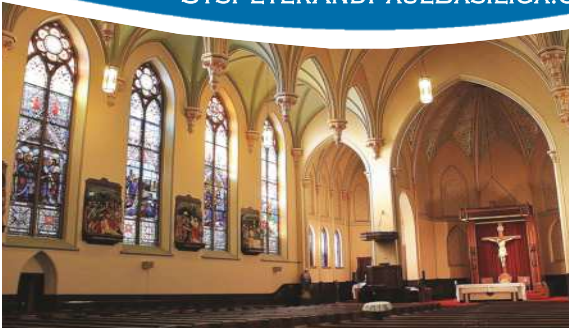




THE BASILICA OF STS. PETER & PAUL

214 EAST 8TH STREET
CHATTANOOGA, TN 37402
423-266-1618
STSPETERANDPAULBASILICA.COM

Issue No 492



January 4, 2026 — Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

MASS SCHEDULE

5:30 PM SAT. VIGIL English Mass (spoken)
7:00 AM SUN. Spanish Mass (spoken)
9:00 AM SUN. English Mass (sung)
11:30 AM SUN. Missa Cantata in Latin (sung)
1:30 PM SUN. Spanish Mass (sung)
7 AM WED & FRI English Mass (spoken)
12 PM MON-FRI English Mass (spoken)

- ♦ Church open 7:30 am-5:30 pm daily
- ♦ Vespers 5pm Mon-Fri
- ♦ Nursery open 8:45am - 12:45pm Sun. (as staff are available)
- ♦ All Masses celebrated according to the 2002 Roman Missal.
- ♦ The Missa Cantata is celebrated *ad orientem*, whereby the priest and people together face liturgical east, the symbol of the Church awaiting Christ's return in glory.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, fountain of love and mercy,
raise up holy priests after Your Own Heart:
humble, pure, and consumed with zeal for souls.
Draw young men to Yourself and enflame their hearts
with desire to make You known through Word and
Sacrament, both in times of tranquility and tribulation.
O Sacred Heart of Jesus, we trust in You.

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE BASILICA!



Download our **myParish** app from your phone's app store or text *app* to the number 55321. Access our messages, calendar, online giving, homilies, prayers, readings, guide to Confession, directory of ministry contacts, and more!

Also, "like" us on **Facebook** to see what is happening!

Access the Basilica's **FORMED** Catholic media subscription on our website or at stspeterandpaulbasilica.formed.org.



PASTORAL STAFF AND PARISH CONTACTS

Rector: Very Rev. J. David Carter, JCL, JV
dcarter@stspeterandpaulbasilica.com

Parochial Vicars: Rev. Alex Hernandez
fralexhernandez@stspeterandpaulbasilica.com
Rev. Matthew Donahue, JCL

Priest in Residence: Rev. Nick Tran
nicktranusa@yahoo.com

Deacons: Dcn. Hicks Armor
hicksarmor@gmail.com
Dcn. Joe Hartz
jhartz2016@gmail.com
Dcn. Joe Roy

Hispanic Ministry: Sister Ema Soto Enriquez
emsennmx@gmail.com

Bookkeeper : Marina Delaney
business@stspeterandpaulbasilica.com

Parish Secretary: Catherine Oliver
office@stspeterandpaulbasilica.com

Admin Assistant to the Rector: Maria Rist
admin@stspeterandpaulbasilica.com

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 1st Friday and Lenten Fridays following the noon Mass to 5:30 pm and 9 pm - 7 am

Baptisms: Saturdays 10:30 am, contact the parish office

Becoming Catholic (RCIA/OCIA): Inquiry & classes
Dan Pacitti rcia@stspeterandpaulbasilica.com (contact via website)

Confessions: 30 min. before each Mass except 7 am

Marriages: Contact the parish office at least 4 months in advance

Religious Education: Sundays 10:15-11:15 am
Florence Porter dre@stspeterandpaulbasilica.com

Sacred Music: Maria Rist music@stspeterandpaulbasilica.com

St. Ambrose Homeschool Co-op: J. Sommers stambrosecoop@gmail.com

Tours: Sherry Hartz shartz11800@gmail.com

American Heritage Girls: Lynette Cabeen ahgchattanooga@gmail.com

Youth Ministry: Matt Givens matthew.h.givens@gmail.com

Mass Intentions

Sat. Jan 3	5:30pm ☩ Edward Ingle
Sun. Jan 4	7:00am People of the Parish
	9:00am Margie Rogers
	11:30am ☩ Kent Lawson
	1:30pm All Parish Benefactors
Mon. Jan 5	12:00pm ☩ Alisha Hall
Tue. Jan 6	12:00pm Notre Dame High School
Wed. Jan 7	7:00am Mark Laurell
	12:00pm ☩ Guy Turner
Thur. Jan 8	12:00pm ☩ Preston Seth Evans
Fri. Jan 9	7:00am Joseph Culotta and Family
	12:00pm ☩ Mark Coddington
Sat. Jan 10	5:30pm Healing for James & Melba O'Connor
Sun. Jan 11	7:00am People of the Parish
	9:00am ☩ Chuck & Katy Lindsey
	11:30am ☩ Miguel Lopez
	1:30pm For all souls

Readings for the week of January 4, 2026

Sun: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
 Mon: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
 Tue: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
 Wed: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52
 Thur: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a
 Fri: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16
 Sat: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30
 Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/Acts 10:34-38/
 Mt 3:13-17

"Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul (TN) - Buy Nothing Group"

on Facebook - Parishioners are encouraged to join and post items or services to give away/receive for free providing a convenient channel for practicing charity and solidarity within the Basilica community.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2513393815633781>

To Give Online

stspeterandpaulbasilica.weshareonline.org

use Weshare QR code

OR text keyword **basilica** to 800-950-9952



OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Fiscal Year-to-date
 7/1/25-12/14/25

Envelopes & Loose	299,419.00
Online	224,402.00
Total	523,821.00

YTD Funds Required 504,000.00

Year-to-Date Variance 19,821.00

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Donations may be made on Weshare or sent to the parish office.

January 4: Haiti Collection

January 25: Church in Latin America

Please pray for the sick and suffering of our parish, especially:

Virginia Aramian, Trudy Blake Medley, Brian Blatchford, Hazel Bowles, John Carlin, Christina Cone, Catherine Contreras, Barbara Cooper Hickman, Jim Cooper, Morgan Cordell, Baby Hampton Cox & Family, Marion Davis, Geraldine DeBoer, Madeline Eve Doyal, Laura Duford, Lynn Elverd, Rosie Exum, Richard Fleming, Lori Fountain, Mark Gerry, James Virgil & Johnnie Gomez, Carlos Guerra, John Hilgeman, John Holden, John Holland, Jr., Jacob Holub, Dale Hoy, David & Gail Hunihan Ann Hunter, Jesse Hurst & Family, Alexis Ippolito, Charles Johnson, Philomena Kennedy, Reginald Kimbell, Jackey King, Paula Long, Taylor Lunn, Zoann Manners, Jaqueline Mathis, Jason McCulley, Laverne McGee, Barbara McKenna, Trinity Mead, William Mitchener, Simon Anthony Moss, Kim Murfin, Denise Nelligan, Baby Gus Nuar, James O'Brien, Tip & Gayla Oxford, Larry Pinckney, Tony Portera, Cardinal Rigali, Melanie Russell, Suzy Sachs, Angie Sackett, Lauren Serio, Daniel Sharkey, Joseph Shramko, Joshua & Madeline Smith Family, Bill Soffe, Joan Spears, Rosa Clemencia Stengel, John Anthony Street, Rhett Thomas, Andrea & Brian Tierney, Marie Turner, Frank & Jerry Villegas, James Waters, Dwight Wilhoit, Valerie Williams, Jim & Barbara Wright

Visit our Pray for Us page to learn of some of their needs.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Safe Haven Certification Required for Basilica Volunteers

In order to be allowed to volunteer in any capacity, adults age 18+ must be certified under the Diocese of Knoxville's "Safe Haven" program. Access the online training from the Diocese menu of our parish website.

Children must be accompanied by a PARENT or ADULT guardian at all times while on the Basilica campus.

This includes every visit to the restroom, the nursery, the parking lot, the sidewalk, and even walking to class and leaving class.

Mass Attendance	5:30	7:00	9:00	11:30	1:30	Total
Dec. 13-14, 2025	168	435	442	271	975	1956
Dec. 20-21, 2025	141	454	428	358	686	2067

MY CATHOLIC WILL

My Catholic Will is the only online Catholic will-writing tool available. You can access MyCatholicWill on our website. In as little as 15 minutes, you can write your will for **FREE** and consider a legacy gift to The Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, and also specify your wishes for a Catholic funeral and burial. Visit <https://mycatholicwill.com/stspeterandpaulbasilica>

Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery

Where will your mortal remains will lie until the day when Christ comes again and our bodies are raised? You are invited to consider purchasing a plot or a niche at **Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery** alongside generations of Chattanooga Catholics. Visit mountolivet.net and call David Hale at (423) 622-0728 for more information.

CATHOLIC MOTHERHOOD**Join Our Email and Google Chat!**

Visit the **Catholic Motherhood** page on the Basilica website email basilicamotherhood@gmail.com to be added to the newsletter and/or Google Chat and for event details.

Adult Faith Formation**Book Club studying "Life of Christ" by: Fulton Sheen**

Tuesdays 6-8pm or Wednesdays 9-11am

Contact Barb Kaine to sign up: bnbkaine@gmail.com

Both groups meeting in the St. Dominic Building.

The Deacon's Table/All Things Catholic

We will begin studying The Hebrews: The New and Eternal Covenant, by Ascension Press, Jan. 11, 2026

Sundays 10:15-11:15am in the McConnell Room at the back of Varallo Hall. See The Deacon's Table page on our website or contact Brenda: brendahartmcconnell@gmail.com

The Basilica's new **Servant of God Library** for adults is open with books ranging from Theology to Fiction. The library is at the end of the hallway by the elevators. Checkout info is posted in the library.

Men's Inter-Parish Bible Study

Fridays 6:30pm at St. Jude Library. Men of Sts. Peter & Paul and St. Jude, currently discussing apologetics. Contact Michael Tabb at mhtabb.6@gmail.com or text (423) 316-8817

Altar Flowers for the 2025 Christmas Season were donated by:

Mrs. Geraldine Charlton: In memory of Jack E. Charton and Richard G. Edgerton

Mr. & Mrs. James Gargano: In memory of the unborn Margaret Greene: In memory of John and Rosemary Harm
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Hartman
M. & Mrs. William Kaine

Mr. Jack Marcellis: In memory of Nancy Marcellis
Mr. John Marcellis: In memory of Nancy Marcellis
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick & Mary Margaret Murphy
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard & Margaret Muzyn: In memory of the Muzyn and Cutcher families

Mr. David Pennebaker: In memory of P. C. Pennebaker and In honor of Emily Ginley and Fr. David Carter

Mr. & Mrs. Chris & Myra Post: In memory of Olivia & Francisco Villavicencio and Joseph Scala
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Poston: In memory of Carl & Martha Poston and Fr. Bertin Glennon

Dr. & Mrs. Tony Portera: In memory of the Sam Portera and Denson Randall Families

Deacon & Mrs. Joseph Roy: In memory of Katie Phillips, Steve Phillips, Johnnie Phillips, Jr. and Johnnie Phillips, Sr.

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Stewart: In memory of Anna Melder, John Melder, Jack Melder and Robert Melder

Ms. Donna Tarver: In memory of Peggy Manning

Struggling with Same-Sex Attraction? Courage International is a Catholic apostolate that helps men and women who experience same-sex attractions to strive for chastity. **Encourage** is for family and friends of people who identify as LGBTQ, who are looking for help to keep the faith and keep their family bonds intact. Visit couragec.org

Pro-Life Ministry

- **PREGNANCY ULTRASOUND MOBILE UNIT** —free tests, counseling, resources offered the **2nd Tue. of the month Feb 10** at St. Stephen's Church front parking lot (7111 Lee Hwy) and **3rd Thur. of the month Feb. 19** at Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul in the Cumberland Title & Guaranty parking lot. Contact pregnancyhelp@ccetn.org or 865-864-3002 for appointments and visit ccetn.org/pregnancy-help.org
- **ADOPTION Services** now offered by Catholic Charities of East TN! Visit alovingoptionadoption.org for info.
- **Sign the petition to defend the Human Life Protection Act** https://www.tnrtl.org/hlpa_petition (on Basilica Pro-Life page)
- Please join in support of our pro-life efforts by praying the prayers on the Pro-Life Ministry page of our website.

Notre Dame High School 150th Jubilee

Notre Dame High School will kickoff their 150th anniversary with Mass at 9:45am on Tuesday, January 6th in the Miller Theatre. Please join Bishop Beckman and the NDHS student body for this Jubilee Mass celebrating the oldest private school in Chattanooga. **RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/4f359emh>**
If unable to attend, the Mass will be livestreamed here: <https://youtube.com/live/zsumF4YEpSE>

As part of the year-long celebration, 150 Masses will be celebrated in honor of Notre Dame High School. The Basilica will celebrate one Mass Each month for NDHS during 2026. Please check the bulletin for dates and times.

Coffee Bar Sunday, January 11 10am-11:30am

Please join us on the rectory lawn (weather permitting) for a coffee bar from **10am-11:30am**. Get to know members of the parish and enjoy a cup. You get to decide the price. Donations go to fund the next coffee event to make available for all to enjoy, payable by cash, venmo, paypal, and cash app. We have coffee, teas, hot chocolate, treats, and more, including decaf coffee! Hope to see you!

Vocation Ministry at the Basilica

The Vocation Ministry has started with parish-wide prayer for an increase in priestly vocations. The new prayer is on the front of the bulletin and on the Mass Schedule & Prayer page of the website. **Please take a prayer card home with you, and bring it to Mass to pray.** If you are interested in volunteering, contact the parish office.

stspeterandpaulbasilica.com/vocations

Discerning a Call to Religious Life? Men's Discernment Group meets 4th Saturday of each month at the Chancery. Starts with 9am Mass and ends with lunch at noon. **Women's Discernment Group** will launch in 2026. Fill out interest questionnaire, learn more, or register at dioknox.org/vocations or call the vocations office 865-584-3307.

The Diocese of Knoxville Chancery Office is seeking a **Coordinator of Youth Ministry and an Administrative Assistant to the Office of Youth and Young Adults** Please see the diocesan website for detailed job descriptions at <https://dioknox.org/employment> Send cover letter and resume to Maura Lentz at mlentz@dioknox.org

WAYS TO GIVE AND RECEIVE HELP

- **Counseling** - stspeterandpaulbasilica.com/counseling has a list of local and online resources
- **CHATT Foundation** serve meals or get help 423-756-4222.
- **St. Vincent de Paul Society** get help/donate 423-999-6332.
- **Ladies of Charity** 423-660-0837 to get help/volunteer/give
- **St. Alexius Outreach Ministries** serves seniors in isolation. Give/receive help: 423-755-3446 or stalexiusoutreach.org
- **Chattanooga Food Bank**: visit ChattFoodBank.org.
- **Pregnancy Help Center**: call 423-826-0673 to volunteer.
- **Chattanooga Workforce Development** - Employment, training, education, & social services. Submit request at wfdchatt.org or wfd@chattanooga.gov or 770-548-5997.
- **Meals on Wheels and MY Ride for seniors/disabled**—To volunteer, contact Janet Sullivan, 423-424-4286 or jsullivan@sedev.org. To get help, visit setaad.org/www
- **Paid Job Training for People 55+** Call 423-629-2501 x3130 Kimberly Crider; offered by Goodwill Industries.
- **RiseUP Cooperative works to engage and equip teens and young adults**, all over the Chattanooga area, with life & leadership workshops. There are many ways to support RiseUP and the youth they serve - riseupcooperative.org
- **Volunteers in Medicine** - primary care clinic for the needy; apply at vim-chatt.org.
- **ABIDE** - Respite care for people with dementia, to help their caregivers. Call 423-756-2021 x3108 to participate/volunteer. Visit firstcentenary.com/abide

Becoming Catholic (RCIA/OCIA)

- If you are interested in **learning more about the Catholic Faith**, please submit an inquiry on our Becoming Catholic page: stspeterandpaulbasilica.com/becoming-catholic-rcia
- **Registration is open on our website**. Classes are 10:15-11:15am Sundays. **Inquiry classes are year-round**.
- **Inquiry & OCIA classes in session**, Sundays 10:15-11:15 in Varallo Parish Hall
- **Candidacy Classes** for those baptized, catechized, and evangelized Wednesdays 7pm in the RE building. Next session will begin Jan. 7, 2026.
- **OCIA needs sponsors!** If you are interested in assisting OCIA as a sponsor, presenter, or other help, please contact Dan Pacitti. rcia@stspeterandpaulbasilica.com 865-335-3076

Religious Education Age 3 – Grade 12

Register on our website.

Classes are Sundays 10:15-11:15am—resuming Jan. 11
 Class attendance required for 1st Holy Communion (2nd grade) & Confirmation (6th grade), encouraged for all grades.
 Contact Florence Porter dre@stspeterandpaulbasilica.com

Confirmation for Adult Catholics

Contact the parish office to discuss the process.

Forever Young Catholics (age 40+) Upcoming Events

- **Email Bob Mikulka at foreveryoungcatholics@gmail.com** to receive emails and RSVP for events. Visit stspeterandpaulbasilica.com/forever-young.
- **BOOK CLUB** normally 2nd Wednesdays 6:15-8pm at the Swineys' house. Wed. Jan. 14 we begin *The Gospel According to Saint Luke* by Scott Hahn and Curtis Mitch

Adventurous Catholics

HIKES & WALKS Mon. mornings, Wed. evenings, and Saturdays. Easy to moderate. Special activities each month. Email AdventurousCatholics@gmail.com for announcements.

YOUNG ADULTS – Catholic Chatt

If you're a young person looking for community and friendships, Catholic Chatt is a place for young adults ages 18-39 to grow in faith, support each other, and build Catholic community across Chattanooga. We plan faith formation, hikes, game nights, bonfires, and more, and we would love for you to join us. Sign up for event alerts at CatholicChatt.com

- **"Be More Human: Christianity and Artificial Intelligence"**
 Talk by Laura McCarty - Jan. 30 7pm in Varallo Hall

- **Guys Nights Mondays 7pm** contact Jonah 423-424-8618

- **Women's Small Group Weds 7pm** contact Laura 865-556-9663

COLLEGE STUDENTS – Catholic Center at UTC

A place for college students to hang out, find community, attend Bible studies, and other activities during the semester.

Sun/Wed 6pm confessions, 6:30pm Mass, & 7:30 free dinner

Visit utccatholic.com and talk to our FOCUS missionaries

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Downtown Disciples Youth Ministry for 6th-12th grade
Wednesdays 6:30-8pm in Varallo Parish Hall (resuming Jan. 7)
Games, snacks, faith formation, prayer, & fellowship

SEARCH Retreat for 11th & 12th Graders Feb. 27-Mar. 1, 2026
 (registration link on Youth Group page)

stspeterandpaulbasilica.com/youth-group
 Register for Youth Group and contact matthew.h.givens@gmail.com

First Friday Adoration with Exposition on January 2

After the 12pm Mass until Benediction at **5:30pm**. Adoration will resume through the night from **9pm Friday—7am Sat.**

Help with Scrupulosity

Scrupulosity is the habit of imagining sin where none exists, or grave sin where the matter is venial. Our Basilica priests recommend some resources to help address scrupulosity:
stspeterandpaulbasilica.com/confession (scroll to the bottom)

Oppose 12-Story building to OVERSHADOW the BASILICA and risk damaging the Basilica

Basilica opposes 12-STORY BUILDING to overshadow and threaten the Basilica structure

PUBLIC HEARING Monday, Jan. 12, 2026 1pm

Hamilton County Courthouse, 625 Georgia Ave., 4th Floor, Room 402

filed 01/12/2026 10:14 AM by [REDACTED]

SITE OVERVIEW AERIAL VIEW



Rezone to D-CX-12

SCD

----- The proposed 12-story building site is outlined in red above. -----

Voice your concerns to **Regional Planning Agency** (<https://chrpa.org/public-input>) Address: 19 Patten Parkway, Case: 2025-018!
AND the **City Council** (<https://chattanooga.gov/government/city-council>). PETITION to come at stspeterandpaulbasilica.com

SIGN the PETITION here

at stspeterandpaulbasilica.com/petition - or on paper



Chalking of the Door: A House Blessing at Epiphany

The feast of manifestation, or Epiphany, is traditionally celebrated on the 12th day after Christmas, January 6th. In the dioceses of the United States this feast has been moved to Sunday. It is traditional for parish priests to bless chalk for parish families so that they may mark the names of the three Magi over their doors, in the blessing of homes as a witness of their faith and protection against evil.

We invite you to adopt this custom in your family. The family gathers to ask God's blessing on their home and on those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance, for example:

20 + C + M + B + 26. The letters **C, M, B** have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and the last two digit number represents the year (20 __).



Instructions for Blessing the Home

Using the blessed chalk mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows:

20 + C + M + B + 26 while saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and eighteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then offer the following prayer:

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen

MADE FOR MORE will be held on March 4 at Notre Dame High School

We Are Made for More. A Q&A with Christopher West and Mike Mangione

As parishes and families try to keep up with a fast-moving world where the definition and purpose of our humanity seem to constantly change, an eye-opening and breathtakingly beautiful national touring event called **Made for More: Visions of the Promised Land** is coming to:

Notre Dame High School 2701 Vermont Avenue Chattanooga, TN 37404 on Wednesday, March 4, 2026

"Where do we come from and where are we going? If we don't have compelling answers to these questions, we have no orientation in our lives," says Christopher West, world-renowned teacher of St. John Paul II's liberating vision of human life and love called "Theology of the Body."

The event, led by West and internationally touring folk/Americana musician Mike Mangione, will dive deeply into life's deepest questions and provide both grounding and great hope.

"This is not just a lecture or a talk," insists West. "It's an evening of beauty and reflection that weaves music, video, images and the spoken word into a message of hope that there really is a banquet of love that corresponds to the deepest hunger of our hearts."

West and Mangione recently spoke to the media about some of these clues and much more, including the transformation they hope takes place in those who attend Made for More.



Christopher West (left) and Mike Mangione.

What is Made for More? Why is this your focus?

Christopher West: We call it Made for More because we yearn for so much more than what the world is telling us. The world understands that we are creatures of hunger and passion, but they lead us to what I call "the fast food gospel," which is the promise of immediate gratification for that hunger. Many people think Christianity, on the other hand, is an invitation to a "starvation diet." No! That's not the Gospel. Christianity is an invitation to an infinite feast of life-giving love, and that's what this event is all about.

Mike Mangione: It's a presentation meant to meet you where you are and bring you to a place of communion. It is the culmination of Christopher's 25 years in this work, my 15 in music and our friendship. It is a conversation through sight and sound about how God

reveals himself through creation and how our desires are meant to draw us closer to Him. It is a special and unique opportunity coming to your area.

It is my focus because it addresses the question of what it means to be human, Christian, Catholic right at a crucial moment in our history. We really need to look at these questions before we lose ourselves and slip into a stale state of indifference as a culture.

How is it different from other Catholic presentations?

MM: It is broad and relevant to all types of people. "Catholic talks" tend to be more on a specific element of the Catholic tradition/faith. This talk will be focused on the human heart no matter where it has been before. This presentation uses sight, sound, video, music, and images to reveal, teach and enable us to experience something communally as a group.

CW: Catholicism is a sensual religion – meaning, we experience the divine in and through our bodies, through our senses. And this event is designed to engage your senses, to wake them up and enable a new way of seeing, of hearing, of experiencing the world.

Mike, what is your role in the event? What are you trying to convey through your music?

MM: I am a co-creator as well as the musician for the event. My goal is to facilitate an experience that is communal between presenters, recipients and the Holy Spirit. I call it the Holy Campfire experience ... where we can all gather around and discuss the deepest mysteries of what it means to be human and be part of the human mystery. It is sometimes easier to achieve this with music because, like most art forms, it is often felt first and understood later. My aim is to create an event that brings the audience into the experience rather than just simply watching a talk.

Christopher, what are you trying to convey through your presentation?

CW: We're taking people on a journey through some particular words of Christ. We start with: "They look but do not see." So we've been trained to look at the world, but not see it; to look at the human body, for instance, but not see it. All of creation has a message, and Jesus says, "Come and become one who sees." He's in the business of giving sight to the blind.

The great battle between lightness and darkness is particularly intense in the world today. The meaning of our humanity is being eclipsed. The goal of this event is really to help turn the lights on for people, so they can see the mystery of God revealed through all of creation, and especially through our own humanity, our own bodies as male and female. Through that "coming to see," our eyes are opened in stunning new ways to God's plan for creation and for our own lives.

Mike, what is the "dance" between your music and Christopher's presentation?

MM: There are places music can go that the spoken word cannot. There is so much happening at once: lyrics, melody, instrumentation etc. All of these things can combine into a potent force that can pierce the heart. Sometimes the spoken word can tease out very clear ideas in a way that music never can. Combined, if done correctly, you can create a full head and heart experience. We try to create an experience where Christopher sets up a thought or a vision and then the music helps to prayerfully reflect upon it.

Is Made for More just for adults and parents? Or can youth attend?

MM: Made For More is for everyone who is ready to ponder the questions "Who am I, what am I, and where am I going?" This event is for married, single, celibate, Catholic, non-Catholic, devout, skeptic, youth and ... experienced.

Why is art and beauty essential to the event?

CW: Art is the language of the heart and the heart is wired for beauty, but, sadly, a lot of us are anesthetized in the modern world. "Anesthetized" actually means "numb to beauty." We want to wake people up to beauty, and through that, help people get in touch with their deepest yearnings. That's where we discover the great mystery we are all part of.

How can Made for More transform a parish? How can it help the priest and parish leadership?

MM: Made for More can tenderize the hearts and dig the furrows for the Holy Spirit to drop seeds and cultivate. We provide post-event resources that help those seeds take root and potentially grow into something beautiful and life-giving. Any seeds dropped in the right conditions can provide an abundant harvest.

What would you like attendees to come away feeling?

MM: Empathy, affirmation and hope.
CW: That they're not crazy to yearn for more than what this world offers. They're not crazy to want to be loved and affirmed as they are, behind the masks, warts and all. They're not crazy to imagine a world where every tear is wiped from the eye and every cry of the heart is answered. It's called "the promised land," and we want to give people a vision of it.

MADE FOR MORE VISIONS OF THE PROMISED LAND

Wednesday, March 4, 2026
Notre Dame High School
2701 Vermont Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37404

aftontickets.com/M4MChattanooga





on Market
1722 S. Market St.

423-265-2251

Scott & Angela Johnson
Parishioners

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