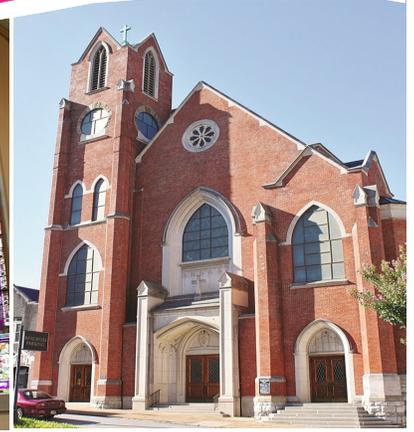
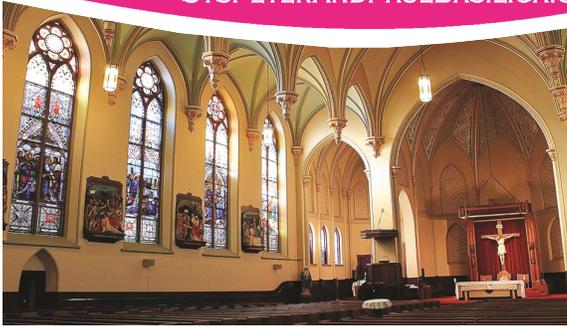




THE BASILICA OF STS. PETER & PAUL

Issue No 502

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



March 15, 2026 — Fourth Sunday of Lent—Laetare Sunday

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 Sun 7am-3pm, Mon-Thurs 7:30am-4pm, Fri 7:30am-5:30pm, Sat 10am-6:30pm
 - ◆ Vespers 5pm Fridays
 - ◆ Nursery open 8:45am - 12:45pm Sun. (as staff are available)
 - ◆ All Masses celebrated according to the 2002 Roman Missal.
 - ◆ Mass is celebrated *ad orientem*, whereby the priest and people together face liturgical east, the symbol of the Church waiting 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
emsenmx@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

CATHOLIC MOTHERHOOD**Mom's Brunch every 3rd Thursday 9:30-11:30am**

4120 Bennett Rd., Chattanooga 612-845-1964

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 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

Studying *The Hebrews: The New and Eternal Covenant*, by Ascension Press. **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

Parish Pastoral Council Acknowledgment

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) exists to advise the Pastor on the needs of the parish. We want to acknowledge and thank our PPC members.

Current PPC members:

Ernesto Morales (Chair), Peyton Arnold (Vice Chair), Janet Gorbitz, Aaron Kirkpatrick, Jim O'Brien, Chris Post, Ralph Potter, Jonathan Sicherman, Amanda Smith, Max Truett, Melissa Wexler, Mauricio Zarco

Members who completed their term of service in February:

Sherry Hartz, Lori Quihis, and Mya Russell
Jim O'Brien completed a year as Chair of the Council.

St. Ambrose Catholic Homeschool Co-op is happy to announce **open registration for the 2026-27 school year through May 8**. We offer Nursery through High School and meet on Fridays, at the Basilica, from 8:30am-11:30am as a supplement to our homeschool curriculum. Interested families should attend one of our **Park Playdates at 9:30 am March 17 at Little Debbie Park and April 14 at Pumpkin Patch Park**. All information and forms are located on the Basilica website. Please email questions to stambrosecoop@gmail.com

Women's Lenten Morning Reflection-Reclaiming Silence: Knowing the Still, Small, Voice of God with Deacon Jim Bello, Sat. March 21 9am-12pm at St. Thérèse of Lisieux Family Life Center- 8:30am Mass, Light Breakfast, & Reflection To register: email karenagnello@gmail.com No registration fee.

LENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **Adoration** Fridays of Lent 12:30-5:30pm and 9pm-7am
- **Stations of the Cross** Fridays after 5:30pm Benediction
- **Fish Fry** Fridays 6-8pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall 313 Sylvan St.
- **PENANCE SERVICES**
Mon March 16 6:00pm St. Stephen, Chattanooga
Tue March 17 6pm CT Our Lady of Lourdes, South Pittsburgh
Tue March 24 6pm CT Shepherd of the Valley, Dunlap
- **Fast for the Poor Challenge – Corporal Work of Mercy**
Skip a meal and donate food to the Chattanooga Food Bank with the saved money. Place items in cabinet in vestibule.
- **Thu March 19 Solemnity of St. Joseph – 12pm sung Mass** and blessing of St. Joseph Table. Bring food for the poor and take some bread from the St. Joseph table.
- **Wed Mar 25 Annunciation – 12pm sung Mass** with blessings of expectant mothers and of those who have miscarried
- **Sat Mar 28 Initiation of Candidates – 10am Mass** for the Unity of Christians, with the initiation of candidates for full communion and Confirmation

The Parish has mailed 2025 contribution statements to donors who contributed \$6,000 or more. Bishop's Appeal contributions are not included. The Diocese will mail a separate statement. To receive a statement, regardless of amount, call the parish office at 423-266-1618.

Pro-Life Ministry

- **PREGNANCY ULTRASOUND MOBILE UNIT – free tests, counseling, resources** offered 10am-3pm on the **1st and 3rd Thursday each month** at St. Stephen's Church (7111 Lee Hwy) and **2nd & 4th Thursday each month** at Ladies of Charity Thrift Store Rossville Blvd. Contact pregnancyhelp@ccetn.org or 865-864-3002 for appointments and visit ccetn.org/pregnancy-help.org
Volunteers needed: Use contact info above to inquire.
- **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.

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

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

[LENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH](#)—cathy.palisoc@gmail.com

- **Fast for the Poor Challenge — Corporal Work of Mercy**
Skip a meal and donate food to the Chattanooga Food Bank with the saved money. Place items in cabinet in vestibule.
- **Volunteer at Ladies of Charity Thrift Shop during Lent.**
Email foreveryoungcatholics@gmail.com to sign up.

MORE 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

“Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul (TN) - Buy Nothing Group”
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2513393815633781> — Parishioners may join to post items or services to give away/receive for free.

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 begins May 20, 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

Confirmation for Adult Catholics

Contact the parish office to discuss the process.

Forever Young Catholics (age 40+) Upcoming Events

- We are signing up 5-person teams to **volunteer at Ladies of Charity Thrift shop during Lent.** See available shifts on our website.
- **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. We are reading *The Gospel According to Saint Luke* by Scott Hahn and Curtis Mitch

Adventurous Catholics

HIKES/WALKS & SERVICE Monday walks / Tuesday feed the homeless, Saturday hikes. 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

- **Sat March 21 11 am | Greenway Farms Hike & Picnic** - meet at dog-park parking lot. RSVP to Jonah Coronis 423-424-8618
- **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
Games, snacks, faith formation, prayer, & fellowship

SUMMER Diocese-sponsored youth events now on our website!

stspeterandpaulbasilica.com/youth-group

Register for Youth Group and contact matthew.h.givens@gmail.com

Religious Education Age 3 – Grade 12

Register on our website.

Classes are Sundays 10:15-11:15am

Class attendance required for 1st Holy Communion (2nd grade) & Confirmation (6th grade), encouraged for all grades.
Contact Florence Porter dre@stspeterandpaulbasilica.com

To donate Easter flowers for our Altar in memory or honor of a loved one in any amount, please indicate with their names on the payment envelope, or online with Weshare.

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)



Join Us at Adventure Ocoee for God Camp, Summer 2026

INCOMING 6TH - 8TH GRADERS
SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 3-6, 2026

The Diocese of Knoxville will once again be offering God Camp at Adventure Ocoee this summer! Led by high schoolers, this camp is a wonderful opportunity for your middle schoolers to grow in their faith, connect with others, and build lasting friendships with kids their age from across the diocese!

Some highlights include lake day inflatables; water park with wave pool, lazy river, and water slide; low ropes course; outdoor sports; bonfires with s'mores; prayer services; skits; crafts; the celebration of Mass; team building activities; small group interaction; along with some surprise activities planned by the high school leaders!

Soul to Soul Coaching Presents
St. Patrick's Day Catholic Speed Dating
 Ages 21ish - 39 ish

Schulz Brau Brewery
 Knoxville, TN
 March 21 at 1:00pm



Looking for that forever spouse who is rooted in faith? Getting tired of swiping? Feel free to sign up and come to Monica Brauns Catholic Speed dating event in March. In the event, you will get a certain amount of time to talk to multiple matches of the opposite gender and hopefully match with one of them. Sign up at <https://monicamariebraun.com/events/st-patricks-day-catholic-speed-dating-in-knoxville-tennesse-on-march-21st/>



CCETN Host



Mental Health Summit

"A one-day summit dedicated to strengthening parish-based mental wellness through the Church's mission of accompaniment, deepening our capacity to support the people we serve by learning together how to walk with them in healing."

SUMMIT DETAILS



Friday, March 20th
9am-4pm



Sacred Heart Cathedral
711 S Northshore Drive
Knoxville, TN 37919

Who?

All faith-based partners, clergy, parish leaders, mental health professionals, lay ministers and diocesan members.

RSVP
 sschneller@ccetn.org





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