



Saint John XXIII University Parish/Catholic Center

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The Paulist Fathers Serving the University of Tennessee

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 22, 2023

Is 8:23—9:3
1 Cor 1:10-13, 17
Mt 4:12-23

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Friday at 5:05 pm

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:30 pm
Sunday: 9 am, 11:15 am,
5:30 pm, and 9 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Monday and Thursday - 4:00 pm to 4:45 pm
or by appointment

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Congratulations!

Please call the office at least 4 months before
your planned wedding date.

WANT TO BE CATHOLIC?

Please contact Fr. Rich at
(865) 523-7931 or frich@john23rd.org

Second Collection

Our second collection this weekend is in support of the pastoral work of the Church in the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America, and South America. Your donation will assist the bishops, priests and religious in countries such as Haiti, El Salvador, and Chile in their work of evangelization, the formation of seminarians and religious, catechesis, and youth ministry. Thank you for your generosity in support of the Church in Latin America.

Thoughts on Today's Readings

John the Baptist adopted a striking way of dressing – animal skins and a leather belt. He ate insects and wild honey. This edge-of-the-desert prophet was singular, impressively different. Jesus – not so much. I remember only one passage about Jesus' clothes: when the soldiers wanted to divide his cloak. And diet? The disciples often bought food and he would go anywhere he was invited for a meal and developed a reputation for favoring parties with very different people.

His ministry was low key. First, he called individuals to follow, seemingly out of the blue. They responded willingly. Peter and Andrew left right from their boat, while James and John set aside the nets they were repairing. None of them seemed to have particular qualifications. He began by traveling from town to town to teach in Synagogues on the Sabbath. His message proclaimed the presence of God's power to repair the world's brokenness.

With deep compassion, he healed the sick, the lame, the crippled, and the blind.

He chose apostles who argued a lot. Peter turned out to be outspoken, quick tempered, and emotional. His brother Andrew was approachable, humble, and soft spoken. James had executive talent, ending up as Bishop of Jerusalem. John was brilliant: a writer, a mystic man of prayer. Add Paul to that mix, and you have all you need for factions and splits. They formed communities of Jews, Gentiles, Greeks, and Romans. Amid struggles and controversies, they were held together by the spirit of Jesus:

loving, forgiving, humbly calling them to be one.
Can we allow that Spirit to make us one today?

Youth Ministry

We are excited to celebrate two Sunday School sacraments this Spring! Preparation begins at the end of January for our First Reconciliation/First Communion Sacraments (generally 2nd grade; 7-8 years old) and also our Confirmation classes (Grades 5-12). Sunday School classes for Grades K-12 begin on Sunday, January 22nd. Confirmation will be celebrated on Sunday, May 7th at the 11:15 Mass and First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, May 21 at the 11:15 am Mass. Please contact Andrea Sirek at 865-523-7931 or andrea@john23rd.org with any questions.



Mardi Gras 2023

Our Mardi Gras party will be held on **Friday, February 17th from 7:00pm to 11:00pm.**

Tickets go on sale **THIS** weekend!!

Singles: \$20

Couples: \$35

Students: \$10

Please come for great food, great music, dancing, and our silent auction!

We're still looking for some nice items (minimum \$20 value) to be donated for the silent auction.

All donations will be recorded as non-cash donations.

Please bring any items in by Monday, February 13th.

And if you'd like to sign up to bring delicious food for our potluck, the signup board is in the lobby!

This year, we will be welcoming **Jeanine Fuller & The True Funk Souldiers** to the stage!

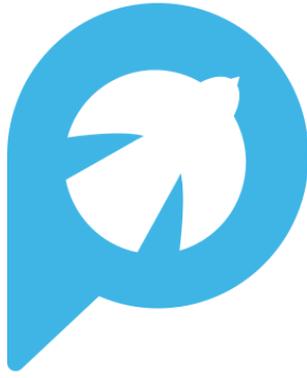


Among the amazingly talented members of this band is our very own **Marcel Holman**: professional musician, composer, and saxophonist who can be found playing with all of our weekend music groups!

Jeanine is a seasoned vocalist, songwriter, and performer. She is a Brooklyn, New Yorker turned Knoxville, Tennessean, with eclectic vocal blends of soul, funk, blues, jazz, and rock.

She has toured around the U.S. and internationally, performing in cover bands, off-Broadway theater-based productions, classical choral groups, jazz and gospel ensembles, and her own cabaret acts.

It should be a great evening,
and we hope to see you all there!!



PAULIST FATHERS

2023 Annual Appeal

Servant of God Father Isaac Hecker, founder of the Paulist Fathers, once said that "the true Paulist is a religious entirely depending on God for his spiritual life, living in community, and laboring above all to supply the most pressing needs of Church and humanity of his day." Guided by the Holy Spirit, the 2022 Paulist General Assembly discerned the needs of our time and ratified the centrality of evangelization as our mission.

Our missionary community exists because we fundamentally believe that a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through his Church transforms our lives as well as those of others. Every person who encounters the Lord in the Word, the Sacraments, and community of believers lives for a greater purpose.

Our General Assembly also discerned that the Paulists are being called by God to address one of the most significant threats to the spreading of the Gospel in our world today. The increasingly toxic polarization plaguing our social interactions and amplifying the divisions in our Church and our nation has prompted us to commit to staff and fund a Paulist national initiative to address toxic polarization. This initiative will create, promote, and maintain a hub for pastoral guidelines, preaching aids, resources, media, best practices, and proven models available for all Paulist parishes and ministries, as well as serve as a resource to the wider American Church.

We invite you to partner with us in God's reconciling work by your generous support to our Annual Paulist Appeal. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the support of many like you, our partners in mission, we will continue sharing the gift of our Catholic faith to transcend differences and divisions.

I am grateful to all who generously supported the construction of Hecker House, the Paulist House of Mission and Studies in Washington, D.C. Now, we come to you for a generous gift that will provide essential funding for mission, including:

- Recruitment and training of new Paulists to serve as pastors and missionaries to our American culture and worshipping communities;
- Underwriting and growth of a new Paulist national initiative to address polarization.

As we continue this new year with much hope and missionary zeal, I invite you to engage God in prayer as you discern the gift you will be blessing us with. I am sure the Holy Spirit has an opinion.

With a grateful heart and renewed spirit, I remain:

Yours in Christ,

Very Rev. René Constanza, C.S.P.

President, The Paulist Fathers

Justice Knox

On Sunday February 12, 2023, 12:30 PM the Justice Knox Team and Members will meet at St. John XXIII. We invite everyone who is interested to join us. At the meeting, we will hear updates on what is happening with our work dealing with Gun Violence, Homelessness, Education Disparities, and Transportation for those who have limited or no access. Stories will be shared about people who we know that struggle with these issues. There is such a great need for those many in our community who do not have the necessities to keep them safe and warm.

Another purpose of the meeting is to begin planning for the Nehemiah Action Assembly to be held on Tuesday, April 25. The Assembly is the culmination of our meeting and negotiating with officials for specific solutions needed in our community. Officials are asked publicly to commit to these solutions before the large group we will gather. Now is the time to begin to ask people to plan to join us so that they will clearly understand the need for what we will be asking. A large turnout of informed people makes a big difference in making effective changes for people in need. Just like in the Bible, Nehemiah called an assembly of the people to go before the king to address their needs, we, too, call an assembly to go before officials to address the needs of our people.

Several years ago, we worked for Affordable Housing. At that Nehemiah Action Assembly, Mayor Kincannon and City Council members present agreed to work on establishing a designated source of funding from the budget for the next 10 years with stipulations to target those most in need. It has allowed much more needed affordable housing to be built. This year, we chose to research homelessness in our community. Preliminary research with organizations that deal with homelessness are again showing the great need for housing that people can afford. While mental health and addictions do result in people living on the streets and under the bridge, we are beginning to see that those are not the primary reasons most people become homeless. It is the affordability and lack of housing! Will this be the conclusion of the committee? It is not certain at this point and more research is taking place.

As Catholics, we come from a long line of lay people, priests, religious, and Popes that have responded to the cry of the poor. And that response has changed lives. It is what Jesus did while here on earth and it is what our faith calls us to do today in our community, because the need is still great. So come and join us and other faith congregations in making this a better place to live and work for all of God's people.

St. John 23 Justice Knox Meeting, Sunday, February 12, 2023, 12:30 PM
Nehemiah Action Assembly, Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 6:30 PM

Catholic Response to Climate Change

Happy 2023 from Catholic Response to Climate Change Committee! Wishing you many blessings on your work of creation care in East Tennessee and success with your challenging goals and resolutions! With this greeting, we share excerpts from the Laudato Si' Movement's first newsletter of the year and also an invitation from Pope Francis' Laudato Si' Action Platform.

"The beginning of this year has been marked by the death of the great Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, whom we will always remember fondly for being the "green pope," bringing great teachings on ecology to the Church. Pope Benedict XVI did his successor and the world a service by frequently speaking out against destruction to the environment and building on the Catholic Church's history of caring for creation.

The first pope in 600 years to resign will long be known for his elaborate and thoughtful theological statements and writings. Pope Benedict XVI also nudged forward the Church's practical thinking on climate change and creation care, influencing Pope Francis and his world-changing encyclical, Laudato Si'. Pope Francis quotes Pope Benedict XVI throughout the document that has helped the world's 1.2 billion Catholics place millennia of Catholic teaching in the context of today's ecological crisis.

'It's enormously important to highlight how much Benedict had paved the way for this and how much Francis explicitly drew from Benedict's thoughts,' said Vincent Miller, professor and Gudorf Chair in Catholic Theology and Culture at the University of Dayton, a Catholic university in the U.S. 'Pope Francis has been very explicit that he learned a lot from Pope Benedict.'

For millennia, dating back to the Book of Genesis in the Bible, the Catholic Church has made stewardship of creation a priority. More recently, Saint John Paul II denounced 'the lack of respect for life evident in many of the patterns of environmental pollution' and made clear that the 'ecological crisis is a moral issue.'

Pope Benedict XVI built on his predecessor's actions and words, calling Catholics to care for creation and for the world to reform its ways. 'The external deserts in the world are growing because the internal deserts have become so vast. Therefore, the earth's treasures no longer serve to build God's garden for all to live in, but they have been made to serve the powers of exploitation and destruction,' he said during his inaugural homily in April 2005.

Pope Benedict XVI said in his 2010 World Day of Peace message, 'If you want to cultivate peace, protect creation.' During the 2008 World Day of Peace, he used the phrase 'our common home' when describing creation, a term Pope Francis would use seven years later in the subtitle of Laudato Si'.

Just as important and more visibly, Pope Benedict XVI led by example. He oversaw the installation of solar panels on the Vatican's Nervi Hall, and he approved of the Vatican funding a Hungarian forest, a move aimed at making Vatican City the first country to become carbon neutral. The latter move helped Pope Benedict XVI earn the label of "The Green Pope."

Pope Benedict XVI's leadership also led dioceses and bishops to make caring for creation a priority in their areas and regions, an effort that has been significantly bolstered under Pope Francis and since the 2015 publication of Laudato Si'.

A note from LSM: 'Thank you, Pope Benedict, for your leadership in caring for creation. You gave your life to the Church, and your leadership helped Catholics all over the world understand that caring for God's Earth is part and parcel of who we are as Catholics. May you rest in peace and intercede on our behalf.'

We also share an invitation from the Vatican Laudato Si' Action Platform to a new monthly webinar series—Journeying with the Laudato Si' Action Platform—dedicated to you and your path towards integral ecology.

The first webinar in the series, "Wonder and Awe: How Eco-Spirituality Can Inspire Us in 2023," kicks off on Jan. 23 at 8:00 EST. This webinar will be available in English and Spanish.

You can register here: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WVfLvSXTJaFu6BGufzMVQ?



A Reflection on the Consistent Ethic of Life

This past year has seen continuing and increasing threats to the lives and dignity of the most vulnerable among us: the continuing humanitarian crisis at the U.S. southern border; the continued use of the death penalty in more than half the United States; Canadian laws that are encouraging the poor and vulnerable to seek euthanasia; and a lack of solidarity with unborn children and their mothers in a post-Roe world. Too often those without resources or power, those with disabilities, and those facing injustice go unheard and uncared for. They are most at risk in what Pope Francis calls the “throwaway culture.”

Societies can be measured by how they care for their weakest and most vulnerable members. Respect for human life and dignity, as well as solidarity with the vulnerable, stand at the center of Catholic social teaching. Those principles call for a consistent ethic of life that protects and promotes the lives and dignity of each and every person, especially those in need, and regardless of age or stage in life, ability, immigration status, race, religion, gender, or any other factor.

Promotion of a Consistent Ethic of Life seminar at Georgetown University

The Semiannual Report of the Social Concerns Committee for All Parishioners

The Social Concerns Committee of St. John 23rd University Parish has been meeting since September of 2016. Every 6 months, we issue a semiannual report. On two pages, we summarize all we have done and any funds the parish has spent as St. John 23rd parishioners try to embody the social teachings of the church. Members of your parish tried to welcome strangers, give food and drink to those who need it, shelter the homeless, visit the imprisoned, struggle with racism, care for creation, and affirm life. Through the Insight and Awareness program, we have a library of Catholic Social Teaching on the issues of today which you can find online.

We know that each of you, at work, in your studies, with friends and neighbors, and in your families are reaching out to others with the healing love of Christ. But help us to promote the active presence of God’s love by taking a look at the July to December 2022 report and telling us what you think. It will be out in the next few weeks and can be found on the table in the lobby next to the bulletins.



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Sunday Giving Update

Basket Collections

December 25: \$7,270.38

December 31: \$29,000

January 1: \$2,080

January 8: \$8,586

Electronic Donations for December

\$15,397

NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

January 23-29

- Monday:** 4:00 pm - Confessions
5:05 pm - Daily Mass
7:00 pm - Finance Committee Meeting
- Tuesday:** 5:05 pm - Daily Mass
7:00 pm - RCIA
- Wednesday:** 5:05 pm - Daily Mass
7:00 pm - VolCatholic
- Thursday:** 4:00 pm - Confessions
5:05 pm - Daily Mass
- Friday:** 5:05 pm - Daily Mass
- Saturday:** 5:30 pm - Mass
- Sunday:** 9:00 am - Mass
10:00 am - Sunday School
10:00 am - Adult Bible Study
11:15 am - Mass
5:30 pm - Mass
6:30 pm - Sunday Supper
9:00 pm - Mass

Pope Francis' Prayer for January: For Educators

"We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all."

Prayer Requests

Let us pray for peace and justice throughout the world. Other prayers are needed for Jo Andrews, Vic Kaminsky, Erin Kirkpatrick, Scott Hernandez, Kylie Hemphill, Dominic Mackey, Chance Adams, Jeyden, Peg Hart, John Fox, Karen Pearson Rich, Connie Beeler, Christine Wade, Jerry Carney, V. J. D'Innocenzo and his family, Beth Long, the family of Mufide Rende, Ellen Wavrek, Emilian, Charles, Carlos, Michel, Fernando, Esteban, Sebastian, Margaret Dusichka, Diane Dusichka, Ray Bieniek, Geneva Stewart, Anna Platfoot, Brendan Barry, Ernst Edel, displaced tenants of Walker Springs Apartments, the Acheampong family, the Odoi family, the Bentil family, the Thompson family, the Deku family, Tom Mulligan, Tom Walsh, residents of Serene Manor, those serving in the military, and for any too reserved to let us know.

Get the Bulletin in Your Inbox!

Stay up to date with what is happening here at St. John XXIII Catholic Center! Each week we will send you an email update with a link to a downloadable version of the current week's bulletin.

Follow this link to sign up:
<https://discovermass.com/church/john-xxiii-catholic-center-knoxville-tn/#bulletins>

Lector Schedule

January 28-29

Sat. 5:30pm LuAnne Zelasko - Stan Zelasko
 Sun. 9:00am Adwoa Owusu - Lee Campfield
 Sun. 11:15am John Long - Rachel Wiedman

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