



Saint John XXIII University Parish/Catholic Center

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The Paulist Fathers Serving the University of Tennessee

First Sunday of Lent

February 26, 2023

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Rom 5:12-19
Mt 4:1-11

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Friday at 5:05 pm

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 10 am (Lent) and 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 week helps to provide Catholic education and seminary tuition assistance for minority communities in our diocese as the **Black and Indian Mission** has done for many decades. Thank you for your generosity in helping to make Catholic education possible for minority communities. Envelopes are available in the lobby.

Thoughts on Today's Readings

As Lent begins, we find Jesus ending a long fast, maybe feeling like we do in February's last week. Ash Wednesday is not an upper like New Year's day with fireworks. The way angels finally came to minister to him tell us he felt like we would after such an ordeal. Satan, the persuader, tries three strategies. First, you have a gift of helping and healing others; use it for your own needs. Secondly, let your holiness shine brilliantly so as to evangelize others. Thirdly, set aside religious principles and I will open a path to worldly success and power.

Satan recognizes Jesus' humanity in his hunger. Remember how Jesus in the Gospels has compassion on people who came to hear him "in a deserted place" so he finds food for them? He, himself, liked a good meal. "Feed yourself," says Satan. "In fact, why not base your ministry on feeding others?" Jesus refuses. God's word restores hearts far beyond what food accomplishes.

"How about miracles?" says Satan. "Let your amazing power be your path to power." Notice Satan doesn't suggest he heal a leper. "Focus the power on yourself. Jump with everyone watching." Jesus knows that his divine light shines brightly through love, rather than self-promotion.

Finally, "If there is a moment, when great success might be at hand, if only you betray your fundamental principles, do it!" says Satan.

"With your power established, then you can do good for many others." Jesus uses the word "worship" as he sends Satan away. With heart, mind, soul, and strength we worship God alone. If we set that aside, what is left?

Satan never leaves us. He hangs around. During this Lent, tell him to get away ... and mean it.

Ladies of Charity Knoxville Lenten Season of Giving Food Drive

When: March 3 through March 12

Bring Food, Donations or Gift Cards (Aldi's, Food City, Ingles, Kroger, etc.) before Mass.

Where: Look for the barrels in the lobby.

Why: Ladies of Charity Food Assistance Program in Knoxville serves thousands of our Neighbors each year. As Mother Teresa said, "If you can't feed 100 people, then feed one". If each person at St. John XIII brought just one can of something, you could make a difference.

Suggested Shopping List

Peanut Butter
Nutritious Cereal or Oatmeal
Chicken Noodle Soup
Tomato Soup
Spaghetti or Pasta Noodles
Spaghetti Sauce (no glass jars)
Canned Beans
Canned Fruits
Canned Vegetables
Muffin Mix
Pancake Mix
Feminine Products
Baby Items
Toiletries

One case of any item would be helpful. Warehouse clubs have good prices.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Adult Confirmation Meeting

Are you a college student or adult who missed out on Confirmation? Adult Confirmation may be the choice for you. You are invited to an information meeting in the Chapel **THIS Monday, February 27th at 7 pm** to learn more!



Lenten Fridays

Looking to add to your spiritual life this Lent? Whether you are a parishioner or a student, please join us on Friday evenings for prayer, reflection, and fellowship. Mass begins at 5:05 pm, Stations of the Cross at 6:00 pm, and potluck soup supper immediately after. Come for the whole thing or just one part, you are welcome to bring your favorite meat-free soup for all to share!

"How to" Mass

We come to Mass each Sunday but have we ever had a chance to learn why we do the things we do? Why are there bells at certain parts of the Mass? Why do we need candles? How many different Eucharistic Prayers are there and when should we use them? Why do we omit the "Gloria" during Advent and Lent? What is an epiclesis? Or anamnesis? Where does Mass get its name?

Our faith is steeped in two millennia of tradition and the more we know the deeper we can delve into the spiritual life. During Lent, on Saturdays at 10am we will be celebrating teaching Masses, covering different aspects of the liturgy each week. Please join us for a spiritual and enriching experience

Special note: there will not be a Saturday morning Mass on March 4.

A Season for Slowing Down

During this sacred season, we will intentionally slow down so that we can pay closer attention to our relationship with God, our neighbors and our planet. Reflect on how the pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving can guide your journey for a more enriching Lenten experience. How can practicing these pillars help you to live in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.



Knox County Catholic Jail Ministry

The Knox County Catholic Jail Ministry includes parishioners from Sacred Heart, All Saints, St. John Neuman, St. Thomas (Lenoir City), Immaculate Conception, St. Mary's (Oak Ridge), and St. John XXIII. We are delighted to announce that our own Fr. Bob has applied, attended the orientation, and just has to wait to see if his references come through. He will celebrate the Eucharist for the women since he has more time available on Wednesday evenings rather than Saturdays when we minister to the men. That is a special gift since the women have had the Eucharist celebrated only twice in the last 10 years. Consider joining the ministry (must be 21 or older) which involves a Catholic service once a month. For more information, call Geri Mulligan 865-243-7052.



Refugee Welcoming Committee

We want to thank parishioners who provided the family from Afghanistan with both a treadmill and an exercise bike. Your generosity is so appreciated, both by our committee, and especially by the family. While it is difficult to pull up roots and leave your homeland, having a "family" of supporters from our parish makes a huge difference in feeling welcome. One member of our committee is helping them reapply for food stamps as they were denied for the coming year. With such a large family and low income, the ability to receive help from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides nourishment that contributes to the overall health of the family.



Liturgical Design Committee

This is one committee whose work is obvious to everyone at the parish. This committee is dependent on and open to the entire parish, matching students with older parish members to fulfill its mission. Each liturgical season, the group comes together to change the decorations in the chapel according to the guidelines of the Roman Missal. For example, the group met last Monday to take down the green banners and decorations appropriate for Ordinary Time, and adorned the worship space in purple with a more somber tone appropriate for Lent. We will meet again during Holy Week to prepare the worship space for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and especially Holy Saturday for the Easter season. Your gifts and talents are so needed. All are welcome including, young men and women who don't mind climbing ladders to attach banners. Of course, less demanding roles, such as holding the ladder or arranging altar cloths, are also available. Contact the office for more information!

Justice Knox

On Sunday February 12, twenty-six parishioners attended our Justice Knox Congregational Meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to start contacting other parishioners, family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and others to invite them to the Nehemiah Action Assembly on Tuesday April 25. We need commitments from you and others to attend this assembly. So please put this date on your calendar. A turnout of a large number of people will let our officials know we are serious and committed to what we are asking.

Several years ago, we got a commitment from Mayor Kincannon and City Council to add to the budget \$50 million of dedicated funding for affordable housing over a 10-year period. While this has made a big difference for many in our city, more is needed. We have many providers who work caringly to provide housing, yet there still are great needs. More people are falling behind in their rent and utility bills. There are no temporary shelters for homeless youth, many of whom age out of foster care. There is a lack of supportive housing for senior citizens and others on fixed incomes. Many people who are mentally ill, addicted, or sick live on the streets. There are not enough case workers to help these people access permanent solutions, not to mention the lack of supportive services. So, while Justice Knox has moved the city to fund affordable housing to address homelessness, there is still much more to be done.

All over the city and county we see homeless people pushing carts with their belongings, living in tents in wooded areas, approaching us for money. Some even have jobs, but can't afford a place to live. Others have addictions and mental health problems. While we can decry the lack of mental health services by blaming the closing of Eastern State Hospital at Lakeshore many years ago, that's too easy of a response.

Was housing many sick people in such a dire, cheerless environment the answer? Surely, our understanding of mental health treatment had advanced since its beginning 100+ years before. It certainly wasn't a place where you would want to be treated. Newer medications, group housing, supportive housing seemed to be much better alternatives. So, the hospital was closed. But we never had the will to really fund these better alternatives. Many who could not function without support were feared and shunned. They found shelter under the bridges, in wooded areas, out of sight when there was nowhere to go.

This year, we are again addressing another piece of the homeless situation. In April, we will see where our research has led us. What other piece of this problem can our community work on? We can find resources and money to fund needed help for those that are literally left out in the cold, for addressing gun violence, for providing better transportation for people without cars, for bettering our schools. It requires refocusing our priorities. We can do this if we as a community of faith have the will and courage to speak up for God's people who are hurting. So, Justice Knox begins to "awaken our sleepy consciences" in the words of Pope Francis. We give you a way to add your voice to make changes and put our money and our hearts where our mouths are. We need your presence to help us change those hearts and take care of our brothers and sisters as Jesus showed us how to do. Please join us on April 25.

The location of the meeting will be announced shortly.

Nehemiah Action Assembly: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 6:30 PM



Catholic Response to Climate Change

Lenten Resources from Laudato Si' Action Platform

As we begin our Lenten preparation for Easter, we are reminded of who we are: creatures completely dependent on God, called to live in love and compassion with all God's creation.

This Lent, Pope Francis invites to us to join the Laudato Si' Action Platform on a journey of ecological conversion.

You can access the Laudato Si' Lenten Calendar and other Laudato Si' resources with the link below:

<https://laudatosilent.org/>

LSM Prayer Book

The Laudato Si' Movement Prayer Book features moving prayers from around the globe and will help you and your loved ones experience the ecological conversion that St. Pope John Paul II first mentioned and Pope Francis echoed in Laudato Si'. This life-changing book also represents the diversity of the Laudato Si' Movement, with its multicultural richness and representation of different branches in our Church.

Get your free copy here:

<https://mail.laudatosimovement.org/landing/prayerbook>

Seescapes

Seescapes.com is the ministry of Len Sroka, a retired producer of training media for industry. He has been inspired by the Laudato Si' movement to create beautiful media reflecting on our common home.

"The joy of my retirement years has been creating and sharing video reflections that honor the Divine, as reflected in the Human, and in the Earth," says Sroka. "The human and environmental challenges we face call us to a deeper awareness of the Sacred Connections with our divided Human Family and our increasingly endangered Earthly Home."

You can access three of Sroka reflections here:

<https://seescapes.com/library.php?collection=caring-for-earth-home-and-earth-family>



Lenten Events

If you're feeling lost over how to spend this Lent, we can help! Next to the bulletins are postcards with all the things we're doing here at St John XXIII to help you have the most spiritually fulfilling experience this

Lenten season. There's sure to be something that speaks to you among the many different offerings, all are welcome!

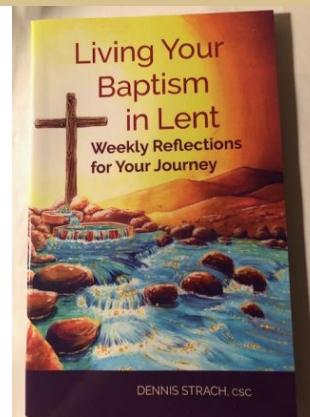


Easter Lily Donations

If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one, please designate on your check in the memo line their name(s) and "Easter Lily." The flowers are lovely and donations are greatly appreciated!!

Mardi Gras: Thank you!!!!

Thanks so much to all who helped make our Mardi Gras party a great success this year! We are so grateful to have such a wonderful and vibrant community. The band was incredible, the food was delicious, and our silent auction raised a total of \$1,512 for the parish!



Weekly Lenten Reflection

The Lenten reflection each week reflects on turning toward God and living out our Baptismal call. It is composed of prayer, reflection, and scripture as a pathway to a meaningful Lenten journey. The virtual link will be in the parish email. For more information, contact Charles Jones - cbjones2@gmail.com.

Scripture Readings for the Week of February 26, 2023

Sunday	First Sunday of Lent Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17; Rom 5:12-19 or Rom 5:12, 17-19; Mt 4:1-11
Monday	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday	Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday	Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
Friday	Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday	Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
Sunday	Second Sunday of Lent Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9



St. John XXIII Staff

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Sunday Giving Update

Basket Collections

January 15: \$14,376.13

January 22: \$3,803.25

January 29: \$2,450.79

February 5: \$8,241.00

February 11: 2,594.91

Electronic Donations for January
\$9,352.66

NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

February 27-March 5

Monday: 4:00 pm - Confessions
5:05 pm - Daily Mass
7:00 pm - Adult Confirmation
Information Session

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
6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross
6:30 pm - Soup Dinner

Saturday: 10:00 am - Lenten Teaching Mass
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

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, Mary L. 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>

*'One does not live
on bread alone,
but on every
word that comes
forth from the
mouth of God.'*

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