



## Saint John XXIII University Parish/Catholic Center

1710 Melrose Place  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37916  
Telephone: (865) 523-7931  
Email: [john23@utk.edu](mailto:john23@utk.edu)  
Website: [www.john23rd.org](http://www.john23rd.org)

*The Paulist Fathers Serving the University of Tennessee*

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 23, 2023

*Wisdom 12:13, 16-19*  
*Romans 8:26-27*  
*Matthew 13:24-43*

### WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Thursday at 5:05 pm

### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:30 pm

Sunday: 9 am, 11:15 am, 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](mailto:frich@john23rd.org)

### Thoughts on Today's Readings

No matter who we might be, our control over tomorrow's challenges is limited. Paul's Letter to The Romans describes a situation when we have run out of ideas and stand without a clue about how to solve a problem that hangs over us like a storm cloud. "The Spirit intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings." Weeds dominate, no staunch allies to join, no perceived way to change my situation. I don't even know what to pray for. Stand before God, let the groaning of your heart rise up to God and trust his mercy. It is the prayer of Jesus in the garden, the prayer of Mary standing by the cross, the prayer of Peter as he realized how totally he had betrayed Jesus.

Listen carefully to the parables. The weeds that can crowd and push against the wheat will not be removed. Turn to God's good people who stand next to you. They may offer support and give you more room to grow. Remember that help doesn't always come from the powerful ones in this world. The humble sources of shade and solace like the mustard tree might be the close and welcoming signs of God's presence. New yeast in your heart and life may change dryness to joy.

The message this Sunday is not only addressed to those who find themselves in harsh situations, uncertain of what comes next. It is a call to understand the situation of a brother or sister whose life seems to be dominated by weeds rather than wheat. "Get rid of them! Throw the book at them!" Those are today's words of those who asked about pulling up those weeds. Listen to what the master says, "No, if you pull up the weeds, you might uproot the wheat along with them." Care for your brothers and sisters who have lost their way, for they are part of the same community you are. Offering small assistance, what you can do (joining with many others you may not even see) provides the hospitality one needs to change. One good person, one generous act may be the yeast our community needs.

Whoever has ears ought to hear.

### Understanding the Sunday Readings

Through the Sunday Mass reading, God speaks to us. Fr. Bob O'Donnell facilitates a virtual discussion of the coming Sunday reading **every Tuesday at 7 p.m.** as we prepare for Mass. No preparation is needed. Attend as your schedule allows. The link is posted in Fr. Don's weekly email.



Many of you know that Justice Knox is a local collaboration of faith congregations throughout Knoxville and Knox County doing justice work. What you may not know is that Justice Knox is affiliated with the DART organization. DART is made up of 31 grassroots interfaith organizations in ten states uniting clergy and lay leaders to work for justice. Here are the four core values upon which DART is built.

- **We believe in the scriptural story of justice.**

Across faith traditions, scripture lays out a story of abundance, love, hope, promise and community. In this story, loving God and your neighbor and yourself gives life meaning. We believe fighting for justice is fundamental to our identity as people of faith.

- **We stand over and against the “cult of money”.**

The cult of money uses consumer culture to promote stories of scarcity, hate, fear, despair and individualism.

- **We need the power of organized people to win justice (Nehemiah 5).**

Through direct action, organized people from a cross section of faith traditions publicly hold decision-makers accountable on justice issues that affect their communities. We support one another in this struggle for justice.

- **We embrace high standards and rigorous accountability because our task is so important.**

We conduct evaluations to achieve understanding, not to assign blame. Each of us celebrates when another succeeds. We embrace pragmatic solutions. We are in this work for the long haul.

If you want to learn more, go to [thedartcenter.org](http://thedartcenter.org) or [justiceknox.org](http://justiceknox.org)



# Catholic Response to Climate Change

The 2023 Laudato Si' and the U.S. Catholic Church national conference, which has been taking place virtually on selected evenings in June and July, continues with the last session of the Vatican's Laudato Si' Action Platform "Response to the Cry of the Earth" on July 25. The conference will conclude with a closing celebration on July 27th to honor Laudato Si' champions in the U.S. Sessions include Spanish language interpretation.

Registration Access can be found on the Catholic Climate Covenant Website: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>

## Season of Creation Events and Activities

The Catholic Response to Climate Change Committee of East Tennessee is planning events and activities for the Season of Creation (September 1 through October 4, the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi). On Sunday afternoon, September 17, CRCC will host an event at All Saints Catholic Church. The event, which is scheduled from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., will include a presentation by Sister Rose Marie, who is a Catholic Climate Covenant Ambassador, and who understands that issues about the environment and climate change will continue to affect all of the other issues with which the Sisters of Mercy are concerned, especially immigration and racism. Sister Rose Marie will lead a discussion with the audience about the Church's teaching on creation care and climate change, and demonstrate how this issue affects much more than just natural ecology, and how Catholics working together can impact climate change and protect our common home and its inhabitants.

During the Season of Creation, several area churches will be celebrating Masses with the theme of reverence for God's gift of creation, and Catholics from all parishes are invited to all. Father Peter Iorio, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima in Alcoa, will preside at an outdoor Mass (weather permitting) on the Feast Day of St. Francis. Dates for other Masses and activities during the Season of Creation will be announced in August.

## Advocacy Opportunity

A new proposal from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to cut climate pollution from dirty power plants sets the first ever limits on most power plant carbon pollution. The proposal would keep the electric system reliable and economical, and would spur industry adoption of cleaner power generation resources, resulting in less harmful air pollution.

The EPA is currently taking public comments on the proposed rules, which have yet to be finalized. There is strong public support for regulating carbon pollution, and it is important that the EPA hear from as many people as possible to ensure that the rules are strong enough to drive down harmful pollution from power plants. The proposed limits on carbon pollution from power plants would improve public health and protect our environment, giving us invaluable tools in securing a stable climate for ourselves and future generations.

### The EPA's proposed standard will:

- Slash carbon pollution by 617 million metric tons from 2028 to 2042;
- Provide up to \$85 billion in net climate and public health benefits through 2042;
- Avoid 1,300 premature deaths, 800 hospital and ER visits, more than 300,000 asthma attacks, 38,000 school absences, and 66,000 lost work days in 2030 alone.

We need the EPA to protect us from dirty power plants. They must listen to scientists' warnings about the urgent need for climate action, public calls for strong climate action, and the voices of those living near power plants. EPA must finalize the strongest possible Cut Climate Pollution Plan by early next year.

If you would like to take action, you are invited to submit your comment to the EPA on the Cut Climate Pollution Plan:

<https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/forms/contact-us-about-climate-change>

Information sourced from Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE): <https://cleanenergy.org/>

The Catholic Response to Climate Change Committee meets on zoom on the second Thursday evening of each month. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. For information, please contact Beth Carroll Hunley at 865-216-1827 or at [genrop@aol.com](mailto:genrop@aol.com).





FOCUS (the Fellowship of Catholic University Students) was founded 25 years ago and has been blessed to serve the students of the University of Tennessee (UTK) for over a decade. Before Jesus ascended into Heaven, He commissioned each one of us to "go out and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). As missionaries, we go out on campus and encounter students, inviting them into a relationship with Jesus Christ. We simply live life with the students, host weekly Bible studies, and walk in discipleship formation with them, in the hopes that, through us, the Holy Spirit may help them come to understand the Art of Living. This year, Isabella (3rd year) and Justin (2nd year) will be returning to UTK, and we will be welcoming Ava (1st year) and Andrew (1st year), as they begin their time serving with FOCUS. If you're interested in learning more about what we do, please don't hesitate to contact us ([isabella.grado@focus.org](mailto:isabella.grado@focus.org)). We look forward to seeing you when we return in August! Be assured of our prayers. May God bless you!



Hi everyone! My name is Isabella Grado and I'm excited to be returning to Knoxville as the new team director of FOCUS missionaries at UTK! I was born and raised in Northern Virginia (Leesburg) and graduated from the University of Virginia in 2021 with a major in Classics, concentrating in Latin, and a minor in Biology. This is my third year serving as a missionary with FOCUS. I spent my first year at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, OK before moving to Knoxville in Fall 2022. Our team is eager to continue serving the students at UTK and looking forward to all the ways we will encounter the Lord on mission this year. Thank you for your support!

## **St. John XXIII Staff**

**Rev. Donald Andrie, CSP, Pastor**  
frdon@john23rd.org

**Rev. Richard Whitney, CSP,  
Associate Pastor**  
frrich@john23rd.org

**Rev. Robert O'Donnell, CSP,  
Priest in Residence**  
frbob@john23rd.org

**Deacon Patrick Murphy-Racey**  
pat@pmrphoto.com

**Andrea Sirek, Office Manager**  
andrea@john23rd.org

**Mary Beth Aguilar, Secretary**  
john23music@gmail.com

**Nancy B. Strange,  
Sunday morning Music Director**  
nancybstrange15@gmail.com

**Kristofer Rucinski,  
Sunday evening Music Director**  
ksrucin@gmail.com

**Gabriella Marie,  
Saturday evening Music Director**  
gabriellacheij@gmail.com

## **Insights and Awareness Topic 83 - Pacem in Terris**

Bishop Stowe celebrates Pope Francis' renewal of  
peacemaking in the church.

You can view this topic at:  
<https://www.john23rd.org/insights>  
(Sponsored by the Social Concerns Committee)

## **NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS**

**July 24-30**

**Monday:** 4:00 pm - Confessions  
5:05 pm - Daily Mass  
7:00 pm - Finance Committee  
Meeting

**Tuesday:** 5:05 pm - Daily Mass

**Wednesday:** 5:05 pm - Daily Mass

**Thursday:** 4:00 pm - Confessions  
5:05 pm - Daily Mass

**Saturday:** 5:30 pm - Mass

**Sunday:** 9:00 am - Mass  
10:00 am - Adult Bible Study  
11:15 am - Mass  
9:00 pm - Mass

## **Pope Francis' Prayer for July: For a Eucharistic Life**

"We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters."



## Prayer Requests

Let us pray for peace and justice throughout the world. Other prayers are needed for Jo Andrews, Isabella Bleu, Isabella Linguidi, Silas Templeton, Linda Veit, Karen Pearson Rich, Gerard Schramm, Winston Heard, Joe L., Charles, Patti Murphy, Peg Hart, Jerry Carney, Vic and Barbara Kaminsky, Suzanne Lenhart, Christine Wade, Jackson Igou, Alice Peterson, Liz Mattson, Cindy Cunningham, V. J. D'Innocenzo and his family, Beth Long, Connie Beeler, Hal Leiner, Margaret Dusichka, Diane Dusichka, Ray Bieniek, Al McGinley, residents of Serene Manor, those serving in the military, and for any too reserved to let us know.

## Church Bulletin Color Advertising Rates

Scott Franz, representing our Bulletin Publisher, Diocesan, is currently seeking new advertisements. Support our parish while you promote your business in print and digitally through social media. If interested, please contact Scott directly or call the parish office. Only a third down payment is required to reserve an ad.

### Contact

**Scott Franz**  
sfranz@diocesan.com  
614-915-4118



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## Lector Schedule

### July 22-23

Sat. 5:30pm Steve Hillenbrand - John Sobieski  
Sun. 9:00am Cid Letsinger - Lindsay Walton  
Sun. 11:15am Jim Dutkosky - Tom Dutkosky

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