



Saint John XXIII University Parish/Catholic Center

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The Paulist Fathers Serving the University of Tennessee

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 24, 2023

*Is 55:6-9
Phil 1:20c-24, 27a
Mt 20:1-16a*

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

Our Nursery is Open!

We are so blessed to have a group of experienced and dedicated students who staff our nursery. Since the summer is over and our students have returned, we are able to reopen the nursery during our 11:15am Sunday masses this semester!

The nursery is located up the stairs, past the student lounge, the last door on the left in the library.

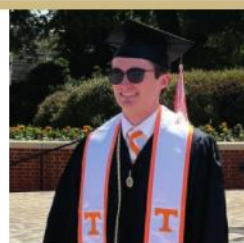


New Director of Religious Education Welcome, Emma Standley!

My name is Emma Standley, and I am from Nashville, TN. I am a graduate student in the Master of Public Policy and Administration Program here at UT, and I am excited to be the Sunday School Director for St. John XXIII.

One thing I love about St. John XXIII is how the priests are so supportive of the students and student programs. My favorite food is sushi, and I love to crochet and knit!

Sunday School will be from 10-11 on Sundays, and we will have classes for the following grades: Preschool, K-1st, 2nd, 3rd-4th, and 5th-8th. If you have any questions, please email me (emma@john23rd.org).



New Campus Minister Welcome, Kyle Fagin!

I was born in Edgewood, KY and came here in 2019. I graduated this spring with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and am currently working on my masters in Mechanical Engineering.

I love that St John XXIII is a place where I can do everything from prayer, eat lunch, and hang with my friends. My favorite food is steak and my hobbies include playing sports such as basketball and football.



Knoxville Immigrant Transit Assistance (KITA)

As many of you already know, a number of people from the parish take turns meeting the Greyhound bus that comes from Dallas and arrives at a KAT stop in East Knoxville about 11:00 at night. We do this because there are often asylum seekers on this bus going to Richmond and points east. A relative or friend has purchased the bus ticket but there is no extra money for food, etc. We meet the bus, find out if there are people in need and provide a snack bag, water, juice, diapers, blankets, and even over the counter medicine. The location of the bus stop has evolved, starting at the now-closed terminal downtown to a KAT bus stop with little or no shelter. Now, the bus stops for only 10 minutes so we have to move fast to provide the help they need. A security guard makes sure we do not board the bus to find the asylum seekers so we have to carry a sign around the bus with a flashlight letting people know we are there to help.

This past week, two wonderful things happened we would like to share. Early last week, the doorbell rang and a friend was at the door. She told us that her sister had died last year and her jewelry was given to our friend. She mentioned that it was not jewelry she would wear so she took it to a jeweler who gave her a large sum of money for it. She knew about KITA's work and our involvement and said that she really believes in the cause and gave us the total check! This wonderful gift will provide water, snacks, medicine, diapers, and blankets for months to come. A gift beyond measure

The other "miraculous" event took place at night after the bus had departed. A young mother with 3 small children came to ask about her ticket. Is my bus really coming at 3:00am? Yes, we told her. And she took out a small blanket and the family sat on the ground at the bus stop. As we talked with her, we found she was from Guerrero, Mexico, the very place that 43 students had been shot and buried in a shallow grave because of mistaken identity. She had escaped with her children and was on her way to relatives in Atlanta. She had no food, no water, and no diapers for the 8-month-old. We could help with all that including stuffed animals for the children who beamed when they received them. But the real part of the story that counts is, for the first time, the security guard who was always cold and officious called me aside to ask if we would be staying with the family. I told him no and he said, "Don't worry. I will watch them until their bus arrives."

God touches hearts when we least expect it.

There are 4 nights when no one meets the bus. If you have any interest, please email Mary Beth at john23music@gmail.com, and we will work it out with you and give some training. Then you will see these "miracles" right before your very eyes!



Do you feel frustrated or angry about gun violence, homelessness, mental health issues, affordable housing, etc. in our community? If so, then you need to look into the St. John XXIII Justice Knox group. Justice Knox is an organization of 20+ local faith congregations that are addressing injustices. We have had significant successes with getting a \$50,000,000 Affordable Housing Trust Fund established with Knoxville City, Crisis Intervention Training for all Knox County and City police officers, and a pilot program for a whole school approach to discipline with restorative practices. Currently, we are researching best practices to prevent gun violence and homelessness. We also have commitments from officials in the areas of mental health and transportation.

How are we getting all of this done? Through the grace of God! We have two amazing Co-organizers, Marjorie Thigpen- Carter and Hashu Love Watson, to lead us. Also, each member congregation has Team Leaders , Network Members and a host of supportive people. Many hands make light work! We hold House Meetings in the Fall and hear stories about what is happening with families, friends and others. Stories that reveal that people are “falling through the cracks”. Stories that show gaps, problems and injustices. After listening to these stories, we vote on one issue to address. Next, there are meetings with experts and officials and others in authority help us get an understanding about what is happening. Then we research to find doable, winnable, pieces of the solution for a better life for all of God’s people. In April or May, we hold a public meeting, the Nehemiah Action Assembly, and request commitments for specific steps to be taken by our officials towards solving the injustices.

Justice Knox is not a political organization. We are people who have heard the cry of God’s poor and feel called by our Catholic faith to answer through Justice Knox. We need you to join us in this work. If you would like more information about the many ways to get involved and to help out, contact Fr. Don or any of the following members.

Paul Schaffer: 865-389-2233

Sue Stephens: 865-386-7480

Joe Haas: 865-274-9030

Peg Hart: 865-579-4278

Joan Clevenger: 865-233-7777

Charles Jones: 404-277-2685



Catholic Response to Climate Change

In her presentation, *Everything is Connected: Finding Our Place in God's Creation*, on September 17, Sister Rose Marie Tresp, Director of Justice Ministries for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, displayed slides of visual images and art along with music and passages from Laudato Si' to demonstrate the beauty and grandeur and the overflowing Love of God's Creation, our common home. The event, which was sponsored by Catholic Response to Climate Change and Creation Care ministries from All Saints and Our Lady of Fatima parishes, took place last Sunday at All Saints Church. The event was part of the celebration of the Season of Creation, a time for all Christians to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, commitment, and solidarity.

Speaking about our connectedness to all elements of creation and the importance of developing an integral ecology, Sister Rose Marie encouraged program participants to spend time outside in nature to increase our awareness in addition to networking, actions, and advocacy necessary to protect the environment. She also encouraged attendees to pay closer attention to the deep connection between people who are poor and impacts of the devastation of climate change, to become more aware about the food we purchase, where it was grown, and what were the effects on the people who made it possible by their work to provide our food and the other items we are privileged to have access to in this country.

An Ignatian Ecological Examen:

1. I give thanks to God for creation and for being wonderfully made. Where did I feel God's presence in creation today?
2. I ask for the grace to see creation as God does – in all its splendor and suffering. Do I see the beauty of creation and hear the cries of the earth and the poor?
3. I ask for the grace to look closely to see how my life choices impact creation, the poor and vulnerable. What challenges or joys do I experience as I recall my care for creation? How can I turn away from a throwaway culture and instead stand in solidarity with creation and the poor?
4. I ask for the grace of conversion towards ecological justice and reconciliation. Where have I fallen short in caring for creation and my brothers and sisters? How do I ask for a conversion of heart?
5. I ask for the grace to reconcile my relationship with God, creation, and humanity, and to stand in solidarity through my actions. How can I repair my relationship with creation and make choices consistent with my desire for reconciliation with creation?
6. I offer a closing prayer for the earth and the vulnerable in our society.

The Catholic Response to Climate Change Committee (which includes parishes in Knoxville and Alcoa) have been planning a variety of events and activities. All parishioners are invited to attend all of the events scheduled on the calendar for the Season of Creation.

2023 Season of Creation Calendar of Events

Sunday, September 24 4:00 pm	Bluegrass Mass Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church (858 Louisville Road, Alcoa, TN)
Monday, September 25 8:00 am	Smoky Mtn hike along Middle Prong (8.3 miles total) Meet at Our Lady of Fatima to carpool RSVP: maryetank@hotmail.com or elizmcac@icloud.com
Saturday, September 30 8:00 am	Ranger guided walk at Seven Islands State Birding Park Meet at All Saints Catholic Church 7:00 A.M. to carpool There is a \$6 per person fee. Questions: Ann Hill: ahutonahill@icloud.com
Sunday, October 1 1:00 pm	All Saints Catholic Church Blessing of Animals Young Williams Animal Shelter will be joining us
Wednesday, October 4 4:00 pm	Feast of St. Francis Outdoor Mass Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church



The Synod in the Catholic Church

Since 2021 you have heard about the synod Pope Francis was convening. Many of you participated in the survey in 2021, other of you attended and participated in the discussions here in our parish. And some of you have read the wonderful articles in our Insights and Awareness Program online.

Now, comes the next step. From October 4 – 29, 364 delegates will gather in Rome to pray, listen, discuss and reflect the findings from the past 2 years. But the Pope, in his wisdom, knew that 25 days is not enough time to deal with all these thorny issues from around the world. The results will be studied between now and the next gathering in October of 2024.

Synod isn't an event; it is a process. All of us are part of it. We may have our minds made up on a particular topic, but can we really listen to each other.

To learn more about the synod, check the archives of Insights and Awareness on the parish website. The following topics deal directly with the Synod: 8 – 13, 16-18, and 87-89. Take a look. But mostly, pray for the Spirit's presence among the delegates this October and in our hearts as well.



Two Ways of Helping

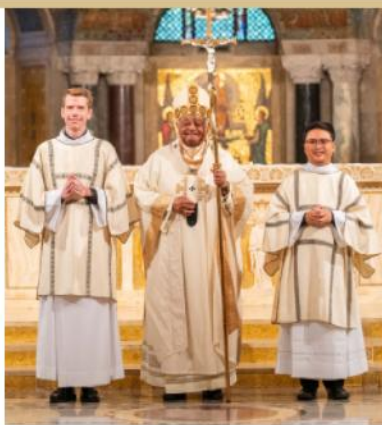
Working on projects at John XXIII can get you into the midst of problems that seem too big for us to solve. Here are a few examples.

Finding a job for a newly arrived refugee is hard. They don't have a track record of hard work in the US and references can't testify to their reliability. When our Refugee Welcoming Committee helped T. to find a job at UT Hospital, she didn't have a car nor the license to drive one. With her we checked out bus transportation and there was nothing that got her from her house to work. What else could we do? We drove her to work for six months, every morning of the week really early! It was the best we could do.

Finding the right housing for a refugee family is a combination of constant search and then trying again. Both families we have worked with started out in apartments that required constant efforts on rodent control and great care with the children playing outside. Bridge (the Refugee agency) works miracles but moves were required before the families could settle down in peace. We helped with the looking and the moving. It was the best we could do.

So we ran smack into two problems that trouble Knox County and Knoxville – transportation for those without cars and affordable housing, especially rentals. These problems are too big for us and for the two families we were trying to help. But Justice Knox has been working hard on both issues. People from St. John XXIII joined with members of other congregations studying the issues, learning from solutions that other cities found, and patient meeting with city and county officials and political leaders. Real progress has been made and Justice Knox played a role.

The Good Samaritans were there helping the family trying to start out (the refugee family) and the Good Samaritans were there helping with longer term solution – both were members of St. John XXIII. It's good to be part of this parish community.



Two Paulist Seminarians Ordained Deacons

On Saturday morning, September 9, Paulist seminarians Chris Lawton and Dan Macalinao were ordained transitional deacons by Cardinal Wilton Gregory of Washington, D.C., during a Mass in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

In his homily, Cardinal Gregory said:

" ... Dan and Chris, thank you from the the heart for listening to the voice of God inviting you to consider serving the Church as a deacon and soon as a priest. You both realize that you come to this moment in your lives at a time when entering the clergy might well be considered by some to be a great waste of time and talent. There are some who feel that you might be entering a dying profession, a dead-end vocation, and a life that is far too risky to bring you any presumed personal happiness. I could not disagree more with those dismal observations, and by your mere presence here today, I rejoice that you share that same sentiment. ... "

" ... As a Paulist, a community meticulously dedicated to preaching, you must carry on that charism of your religious family by becoming inspiring and eloquent preachers of God's Word. ... "

The previous evening, Friday, September 8, Deacon Chris and Deacon Dan made their final promises to our missionary society during a Mass at Notre Dame Chapel at Trinity Washington University.

At the same Mass, our other seminarians, Chris Malano, Ben Chisholm, Zachary Turner, and James Marquez, renewed their promises.

Thank you to everyone who had a hand in these blessed liturgies!



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Insights and Awareness Topic 92 - The Blessing Seed

There are many different creation stories in different cultures throughout time and space. The Blessing Seed interpretation is probably not familiar to most of us but may provide a more accurate interpretation.

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

Congratulations to Fr. Ron Roberson, C.S.P. On His Retirement!



On 21 August, H.E. Bishop Farrell sent a letter of congratulations to Revd Fr Ronald Roberson, CSP, on the occasion of his retirement as Associate Director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

In his letter, Archbishop Farrell thanked him for his service to the promotion of Christian unity with such conviction and effectiveness for so many years. Fr Ronald served both internationally, as a member of the dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Churches, and locally, as a member of various dialogue commissions.

NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

September 25-31

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 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
7:00 pm - VolCatholic |
| Thursday: | 4:00 pm - Confessions
5:05 pm - Daily Mass |
| Friday: | 5:05 pm - Daily Mass |
| Saturday: | Time TBD - Game Day Mass |
| Sunday: | 9:00 am - Mass
10:00 am - Adult Bible Study
11:15 am - Mass
5:30 pm - Mass
6:30 pm - Sunday Supper
9:00 pm - Mass |

Bulletin Sponsor of the Week!



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Prayer Requests

Let us pray for peace and justice throughout the world. Other prayers are needed for Jo Andrews, Isabella Bleu, Isabella Linguidi, Mateo, Silas Templeton, Karen Pearson Rich, Jean Soderberg, Elizabeth Sirk, Charles, Freida Oliva, Maggie Richardson, the Carideo family, Bernadette Flowers, Linda D., Garrity family, Peg Hart, Jerry Carney, Vic and Barbara Kaminsky, Larry and Anne 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.



Pope Francis' Prayer for September: For People Living on the Margins

"We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance."



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