



Saint John XXIII University Parish/Catholic Center

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The Paulist Fathers Serving the University of Tennessee

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 22, 2023

*Is 45:1, 4-6
1 Thes 1:1-5b
Mt 22:15-21*

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

World Mission Sunday

Our second collection this weekend is for World Mission Sunday. This collection supports the pastoral and evangelizing programs and needs of nearly 1200 mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America. Pope Pius XI first instituted Mission Sunday for the whole Church with the first worldwide collection in 1927 in order to help emphasize our universal solidarity in sharing in our common responsibility for evangelizing the world. The box and envelopes are available in the lobby.

Were not our hearts burning within us?
Luke 24:13-35

26M Children 38,140 Seminarians 8,750 Students 12,000 Health Centers 844,000 Catholics 258,540 Religious sisters

WWW.ONEFAMILYINMISSION.ORG

BE THE SPARK THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES. GIVE NOW.

The urgency of the Church's missionary activity naturally calls for an ever closer missionary cooperation on the part of all her members and at every level. This is an essential goal of the synodal journey that the Church has undertaken, guided by the key words: communion, participation, mission. This journey is certainly not a turning of the Church in upon herself; nor is it a referendum about what we ought to believe and practice, nor a matter of human preferences. Rather, it is a process of setting out on the way and, like the disciples of Emmaus, listening to the risen Lord. For he always comes among us to explain the meaning of the Scriptures and to break bread for us, so that we can, by the power of the Holy Spirit, carry out his mission in the world.

Just as the two disciples of Emmaus told the others what had taken place along the way (cf. Lk 24:35), so too our proclamation will be a joyful telling of Christ the Lord, his life, his passion, his death and resurrection, and the wonders that his love has accomplished in our lives.

So let us set out once more, illumined by our encounter with the risen Lord and prompted by his Spirit. Let us set out again with burning hearts, with our eyes open and our feet in motion. Let us set out to make other hearts burn with the word of God, to open the eyes of others to Jesus in the Eucharist, and to invite everyone to walk together on the path of peace and salvation that God, in Christ, has bestowed upon all humanity.

Our Lady of the Way, Mother of Christ's missionary disciples and Queen of Missions, pray for us!

~Pope Francis

From Committee to Friendship

Almost 3 years ago, a group of parishioners formed a committee to welcome a refugee family. After training from Bridge Refugee Services, we met to decide what role we could play, and prepared to welcome our family. On October 22, 2021, we went to the airport to welcome our family which consisted of 9 people:
the parents and 7 wonderful children.



At the airport on October 22, 2021

For 2 years, we worked as a committee to help them integrate into Knoxville society, get social security cards, celebrate birthdays, and help them get to where they needed to be. We also met regularly by Zoom, and sometimes in person to resolve challenges and celebrate with the family.

On Sunday, October 2, 2023, we met for the last time as the Refugee Welcoming Committee to remember, to celebrate the gains they have made, and to become just friends. No more committee, just a group of wonderful friends.

An extra special thing happened on October 10 – Sabura, the mother, got her driver's license. They will always be part of our families, they will always be friends, and we don't need a committee for that.

But other families need the kind of accompaniment that the Turkmens received from our parish from the moment they stepped off the plane. Perhaps that is something you might like to do. If you are unsure, check with Brad and Christine Croisdale, Jim and Carey Chambers, Al Legendre and Be, Charlie and Geri Mulligan, and our friend Laykoon and her husband. It has been and will continue to be one of the best committees we ever belonged to. Now, it is time to pass on the joy to others. Please let Mary Beth (john23music@gmail.com) at the parish know if you would like to find out more about this experience of welcoming the stranger (or 9 strangers). We can guarantee you, too, will go from a committee to becoming good friends.



October 2023



Did you know that someone in our parish has had a loved one shot in the line of duty as a police officer?

Did you know that someone in our parish has had a loved one commit suicide because of mental illness?

Did you know that a parishioner watched an elderly person get off a bus and walk on a narrow busy street to get groceries? Fearing for the woman's safety, our good Samaritan approached her, and found out that this woman had to go to a store far from her home. She had to spend several hours on a bus for a round trip when a car would have taken only 10 minutes.

Did you know that a single mom, a niece of one of our parishioners, works at a bank full time making \$35,000 a year and pays \$1800 a month, or \$21,600 yearly, in childcare for her two young children?

These are stories we are hearing at our Justice Knox Listening Sessions right here at our church.

People are struggling and doing the best they can. Yet it isn't enough to keep them safe, healthy, stable, and secure. In Justice Knox, we take on a pressing issue and do extensive research. Currently, we are working on Gun Violence and Homelessness. In the past, we have successfully gotten changes for our police officers with Crisis Intervention Training. At our Nehemiah Action Assembly, Mayor Kincannon, publicly committed to adding a dedicated source of funding for an Affordable Housing Trust Fund of \$50,000,000 over a ten-year period. And Knox County Schools agreed to our ask and are piloting a restorative practices approach to discipline. We were able to get public commitments because people of faith came together and pressed for change.

Of course, we haven't solved all the problems people face, but we have taken serious steps: steps toward changing our community where people can live in a more just, caring society enabling them to reach their God-given potential and dignity. We don't do the very much-needed works of charity such as giving out food or clothing. Rather, we do **justice work** to get to the why of the problem, and find ways to eradicate it.

We ask you to join us in supporting our work by coming to a few meetings throughout the year.

Our Annual Assembly will be held on Monday, November 13, 7:00 pm at Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church on Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr.

Please come and see what we are all about.

For more information contact any of the following St. John 23 Justice Knox Team 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


Pope Francis chose the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi to present his Apostolic Exhortation, *Laudate Deum* (Praise God). The exhortation on the climate crisis, a follow up to his encyclical, *Laudato Si'* which he wrote eight years ago, was released at the conclusion of the Season of Creation on October 4, and addressed to all people of good will.

In his preface to the address, the Holy Father underlined the U.S. Bishops' expressed concern about climate change, which he said, "goes beyond a merely ecological approach, because our care for one another and our care for the earth are intimately bound together," stressing that "the effects of climate change are borne by the most vulnerable people, whether at home or around the world." In the eight years since the publication of *Laudato Si'* in 2015, when the Holy Father shared his "heartfelt concerns about the care of our common home," he writes that "our responses have not been adequate while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be near the breaking point."

In *Laudate Deum*, Pope Francis urges a "pilgrimage of reconciliation: with our home on Earth." According to a report by the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform Team, *Laudate Deum* is already "sparking transformative conversations and inspiring real-world action."

At our October 12 CRCC meeting we reflected on the message expressed in *Laudate Deum* as we celebrated the activities and events planned by our Creation Care teams, which took place in our area during the Season of Creation. One such event at All Saints Church on September 17, was *Everything is Connected*, a powerful presentation on *Laudato Si'* by Sister Rose Marie Tresp, RSM, Director of Justice Ministries for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. For those who may have missed it, we will be presenting it on Zoom this month and next, and will make it available to all who wish to view. We will announce those dates soon.

"The world sings of an infinite Love: how can we fail to care for it?" (LD 65)



APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION
LAUDATE DEUM
Of the Holy Father Francis
To all people of good will on the climate crisis
October 4, 2023

SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF LAUDATO SI' IN 2015...

- We have not reacted strongly enough to the climate crisis (cf. LD 2).
- The world that welcomes us is crumbling (cf. LD 2).
- We see how the impact of climate change will harm the lives and families of many people (cf. LD 2).

THE SIGNS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ARE:

- Extreme phenomena, unusual heat, droughts (cf. LD 5).
- Heavy rainfall, floods (cf. LD 5).
- Unusual acceleration of warming (cf. LD 6).
- Acceleration of the increase of greenhouse gases (cf. LD 11).

HOW DID WE GET TO THIS POINT?

Neither the human causes of climate change (cf. LD 11) nor its position in the **technocratic paradigm** can be doubted.

The human being believes himself to be **limitless**, "whose capacities and possibilities could be expanded to infinity thanks to technology" (cf. LD 21).

We believe that the world around us is an object of exploitation, of unbridled use, of **unlimited ambition** (cf. LD 25).


LACK OF EFFICIENCY, OPPORTUNITIES, AND LASTING PROGRESS IN MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN STATES (cf. LD 34).

There are no organizations with real authority to ensure non-renounceable objectives (cf. LD 35).

Previous effective decision-making procedures were not sufficient (cf. LD 43).

Prior Climate Conferences have had a low level of implementation (personal interests are privileged over the common good) (cf. LD 52).


What is the point of preserving a power that will be remembered for its inability to intervene (cf. LD 60)?



“”


The whole of the universe shows the inexhaustible richness of God (cf. LD 63). Let us join this path of reconciliation with the world that shelters us (cf. LD 69). "There are no cultural changes without changes in people" (cf. LD 70). "Praise God": a human being who pretends to take his place becomes the worst danger to himself (cf. LD 73).

POPE FRANCIS



COP28 UAE
UN Dubai COP28
NOV 30, 2023 - DEC 12, 2023

- It should be a turning point to react and show that what has been done was worthwhile (cf. LD 54).
- It should help us to make a better energy transition (cf. LD 59).
- It should help us to get out of the logic of patchwork solutions in order to seek the common good and ensure the future of coming generations (cf. LD 58, 60).



DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING
INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Contact the *Laudato Si'* Movement and the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform at
www.LaudateDeum.org
info@humandevlopment.va

Prayer Inspired by Pope Francis' Laudate Deum (Praise God)

We praise you, O God, Creator of all things,
whose mystery unfolds in "a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face."

Jesus, your Son, taught us to wonder
as he made his way throughout the land, contemplating the beauty of creation.

We pray, O God, that you may stir in us
a reverent awareness of our invisible link with the entire created world.

We pray for humility-
to remember that we, too, are created and are not creation's masters.

We pray for compassion-
for open eyes and hearts to welcome those forced to flee from their homes due to rising
sea levels and drought.

We pray for repentance-
so that our thirst for power and domination may be transformed into service.

We pray for simplicity-
and the will to turn from our greed which impacts vulnerable people everywhere.

We pray for cultural conversion-
that we may simplify our lifestyles, reduce
pollution and waste, and exercise prudence in
our decision making.

We pray for policy changes-
that as a nation and world we may work
together to reverse the course of climate
change.

Our hearts ache as we ponder:
"The world sings of an infinite Love: how can
we fail to care for it?"

We praise you, O God,
confident that you work in our hearts and
through our actions, so that we may better
care for our common home.

Amen.



What's happening at the Synod on Synodality

The topic this week was “communion, mission, and participation.” These subjects are a definite priority for a church which hopes to promote dialogue, not only among its own members, but also with other congregations trying to follow the call of the Holy Spirit in today's world.

So, how does that actually happen among the more than 300 members of the Synod? At round tables, the small discussion groups focus on welcoming, inter-religious dialogue, and on ecumenism which synod leaders have characterized as “a pledge to walk with women and men of other faith traditions to justice, peace, and integral ecology.”

After discussing those topics for a few days, the agenda of the synod will focus on presenting summary reports taken from each discussion group. Remember that the Synod on Synodality represents the members of our church around the world. Slowly consensus emerges.

Listening to each other, letting what is said ferment within our hearts, and seeking better communion is fundamental to the meaning of what it means to be Roman Catholic today.

After the 11:15 Mass on the first Sunday of Advent, we are planning time to listen to a brief report on the results of the Roman world-wide Synod and then try having our own session.



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Sunday Giving Update

Basket Collections

September 10: \$3,100.01
September 17: \$3,132.12
September 24: \$5,223.00
October 1: \$5,167.25
October 8: \$6,098.00

Electronic Donations for September
\$7,476.37

NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

October 23-29

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: 5:30 pm - 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

Thanksgiving Dinner

Our annual Parish Thanksgiving Dinner will be **Friday, November 17th at 6:00pm**. Please sign up in the lobby! We need a total of nine turkeys, cooked and sliced. We also need side dishes and a few nice items to be donated ahead of time for our annual bingo game. Everyone is invited and welcome!!

Insights and Awareness Topic 96 - The Blessing Seed

The fascinating liturgical history of the Sign of Peace.

You can view this topic at:

<https://www.john23rd.org/insights>

(Sponsored by the Social Concerns Committee)

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, Virginia Wavrek, 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 October: For the Synod

"We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world."



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John 1



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