



## Saint John XXIII University Parish/Catholic Center

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*The Paulist Fathers Serving the University of Tennessee*

4th Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve/Day, and Holy Family

December 24 - 31, 2023

*Is 62:11-12  
Ti 3:4-7  
Lk 2:15-20*

**WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE**  
Monday-Thursday at 5:05 pm

**WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**  
Saturday: 5:30 pm  
Sunday: 9 am, 11:15 am

**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)

### Christmas Events and Holiday Mass Schedule

#### Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24th  
5:00 pm - Children's Mass  
9:00 pm - Mass

#### Christmas Day

Monday, December 25th  
10:00 am - Mass

#### December 26-29 and Jan. 1

No Daily 5:05 pm Mass

#### Mary, Mother of God

Monday, Jan. 1 - 10:00 am

The building and office will be closed  
Dec. 25-29 and Jan. 1

**Happy Birthday  
Fr. Don!**

**Saturday, December 30th**

**Enjoy Your Vacation!!**

### Our Chrismon Tree

In 1957, Frances Kipps Spencer from Danville, Virginia wanted to decorate the Christmas tree in her church to reflect the Christian faith. She came up with the idea of using symbols and monograms of Christ and made decorations using only the colors of white and gold, symbolic of purity, perfection, majesty and glory. White lights were added to signify Christ our Light, who has come into our world. And so the tradition of the Chrismon tree was begun.

Every year, we at St. John XXIII place our decorated Chrismon tree next to the altar. It stands in full glory symbolizing Christ who is our Light in the darkness. Throughout the years, it has been filled with decorations made by parishioners of all ages. We hope this tree will add to the true meaning of Christmas that you experience in your hearts and homes this season.

## Thank You!!

Our Advent Tree gifting was a tremendous success!  
We are so grateful to all of you for your kindness and generosity!



### What's the connection between angels and royal seats?

*And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim: Holy, holy, holy...*

Right after praying over the gifts and before we sing the “Holy, holy, holy,” leading into the Eucharistic Prayer, you might have heard the prayer above in italics. It’s called the *Preface of Advent* and invites our prayer to mingle with the angels’.

Angels have a large role in Advent: appearing to Mary and Elizabeth, Zechariah getting silenced for talking back to an angel, and appearing to Joseph in a dream. Angels are very active leading up to Jesus’ birth.

But what do we really know about them?

We know very little despite spending centuries thinking, exploring, and asking questions about angels. We get the word from the Greek *angelos* which was used to translate the Hebrew word *mal’akh* meaning “messenger of Jehovah.”

Angels, as we interact with them, serve mainly in that purpose.

St. Thomas Aquinas spent a great deal of time trying to understand angels and, within his metaphysical understanding of the world, discovered that if his system was to be consistent, each individual angel had to be its own species, as different from each other as we are from giraffes and bears, perhaps.

Aquinas envisioned nine main categories of angels arrayed in three groups of three called *choirs*. You have probably heard these names before in different liturgical contexts, and this is where they come from. The top level of angels are made up of *Seraphim*, *Cherubim*, and *Thrones*. The second group consists of *Dominions*, *Virtues*, and *Powers*. Finally, we have *Principalities* and the types we’re most familiar with: *Archangels* and *Angels*. Humanity has only interacted with the two lowest orders of angels.

This might have something to do with the first thing most angels say: “Don’t be afraid,” an odd greeting unless angels are absolutely terrifying! Orders of angels that are closer to God could be so shocking in appearance that we humans wouldn’t know how to react.

We give thanks that angels lead and guide us to the right paths.

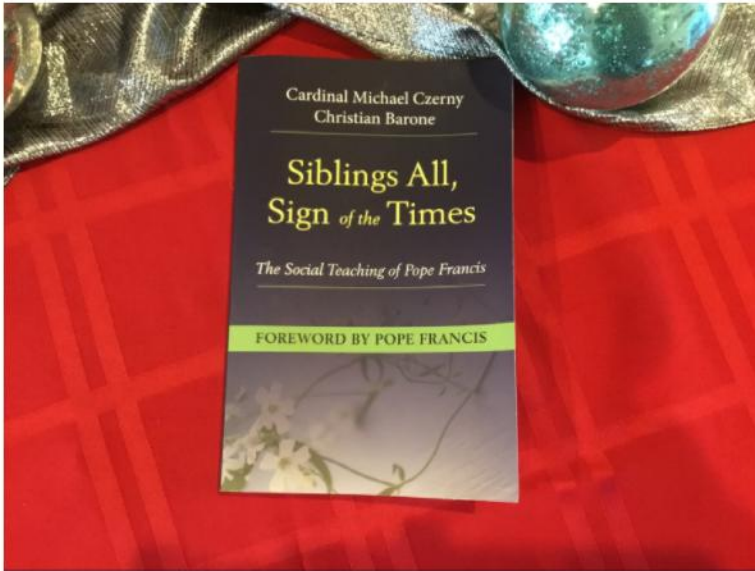
We give thanks that angels inspire us as we lift our hearts and live our lives.

We give thanks for the gift of angels, a reminder that our loving God notices and cares for us.





## Siblings All, Sign of the Times



During this past year the Social Concerns Committee read as a group the new book by Cardinal Michael Czerny and Christian Barone entitled *Siblings all, Sign of the Times. The Social Teaching of Pope Francis*. We read a chapter a month and spent the first 20 minutes of each meeting discussing the chapter as a group.

*Siblings All* refers to Pope Francis' 2021 Encyclical Letter entitled *Fratelli Tutti*, which translates "Siblings All". It begins with a forward by Pope Francis himself reminding us that caring for our Mother Earth and building a society of solidarity are not only not foreign to our faith but rather concrete realizations of it.

Cardinal Czerny and Christian Barone highlight the continuity of Francis affirming the Second Vatican Council. What stood out to us was not only how the speeches and documents merit attention but that we need to focus even more on actions that correspond to the words. Francis' concrete signs and actions illuminate the words he has addressed to us, not only for Catholics but for everyone including non believers. Remember his visit to the migrants landing in Lampedusa? His meeting with the women released from the prostitution racket with the help of the Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII? His stop in Thailand to be close to the children who are victims of sex tourism? and on and on we "see" his words put into action.

In one chapter we read about the criterion for reading the "signs of the times" which we must practice to join the one pilgrimage toward the God who created us all. They list 5 criteria including the preferential option for the poor and care for creation.

The book offered so much to think and pray about that a 20-minute discussion was never enough as you might imagine.

If, this Christmas, you are gifted with a Barnes and Noble card or another gift card, look for this great book. It will keep you reading all year and give you enough to ponder for a lifetime.



## A Good News Update

In February of 2018, Therese Kapinga and her two beautiful children landed at McGhee Tyson Airport from Namibia, Africa as refugees. The Refugee Welcoming Committee at John XXIII was there to welcome them about midnight. So much has changed and happened to them in between. Last Monday, December 11th, Therese went to Nashville with Carey and Jim Chambers to have her citizenship interview. She passed making Shakiena and Emmanuel citizens along with her. In fact she did so well that Jim and Carey who decided to walk while they waited for what was to be about 2 hours were called back in 20 minutes. There is one more step to make it official and in a few weeks they will be invited to the Naturalization Ceremony to receive the Naturalization certificate. But the hard part is over and now it is just procedure. We welcome them as citizens and are honored to have been part of their journey.

# Rethinking Justice

Christmas...Jesus is born and becomes one with us in our joys, our hurting and our struggles. He came and confronted injustices that burdened people in His community.

As Catholics, we are good at doing works of mercy, but is our parish doing justice in our community? Our God calls us to do both justice work and mercy work.

*"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).*

Biblical Justice differs from the way our present-day judicial system addresses community problems.

Come and hear **Father Dan Noll, Vicar General of the Diocese of Lexington** speak on our *Catholic Tradition and Biblical Justice*.

**Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 6:30 pm**  
**Place: All Saints Catholic Parish**

Presented by the Social Concerns Committee and  
Justice Knox Team at St. John XXIII







**A Very Heartfelt Thank You and a Merry Christmas from Our Students!!  
God Bless You This Christmas Season and Always!!!**





# **Christmas Flower Donations**

**Rev. Dan Whitman**

in memory of *Virginia Whitman and Joamm Tacl*

**Allen and Sonja Burk**

for *John R. Burk, Ronald K. Regas, Sr., and Carol Breuel*

**Charles B. Jones, Jr.**

in memory of *Jones and Brooks Families*

**Richard and Moira Connelly**

for beloved members of the *Connelly and Ambrose families*

**Clarita V. Buffaloe**

in memory of

*Vince and Franklin Vineyard, and Steve Buffaloe*

**Madeleine Hassil**

in memory of *Hassil and Connolly families*

In memory of

*Mildred and Glenn Wilkinson, Clara and J.D. McDonald,  
and Bill and Dan McDonald*

**Zara P. Dewhirst**

in memory of *Dudley Dewhirst*

**Allen and Janet Pearson**

in memory of *Rita and Frank Feaster,  
and Christin P. Lawson*

**Pat and Dan Murphy**

in memory of  
*the Murphy and Campbell Families*

**John Platfoot and Rosey Mattson**

in memory of *Geneva Stewart,  
Betty Harshbarger, Mary Jean Hayes, Roy Lea, and Dale Taggett*

**Margaret M. Hart**

in memory of *Jim Hart*

**Gregory and Amy Midis**

for *Catherine Gibbons*

**Frank and Jamie Provenza**

in memory of *John and Inzia Provenza*

**Rainwater Family**

in memory of  
deceased members of the *Rainwater, Broussard, Jacobs, and Daigle families*



### **St. John XXIII Staff**

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

**Rev. Richard Whitney, CSP,  
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**Rev. Robert O'Donnell, CSP,  
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**Emma Standley,  
Director of Religious Education**  
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**Kyle Fagin,  
Campus Minister**  
kyle@john23rd.org

### **Insights and Awareness**

#### **Topic 105 - History of "O Holy Night" Christmas Carol**

Hark? A podcast about the stories behind our favorite  
Christmas carols.

You can view this topic at:

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

(Sponsored by the Social Concerns Committee)

## **Sunday Giving Update**

### **Basket Collections**

November 5: \$10,424.12

November 12: \$5,159.25

November 19: \$3,192.06

November 28: \$3,913.20

**Electronic Donations for November**  
\$8,298.33

## **NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS**

### **December 26 - January 7**

#### **Tuesday, Dec. 26 - Friday, Dec. 29:**

Building and Office Closed

No Daily Mass or Confessions

**Saturday, Dec. 30:** 5:30 pm - Mass

**Sunday, Dec. 31:** 9:00 am - Mass  
11:15 am - Mass

**Monday, Jan. 1:** 10:00 am - Mass for Mary,  
Mother of God  
Office Closed

**Tuesday, Jan. 2:** 5:05 pm - Daily Mass

**Wednesday, Jan. 3:** 5:05 pm - Daily Mass

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

**Friday, Jan. 5:** No Daily Mass

**Saturday, Jan. 6:** 5:30 pm - Mass

**Sunday, Jan. 7:** 9:00 am - Mass  
10:00 am - Adult Bible Study  
11:15 am - Mass



## 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, Jill Stephens, Jenny and Jerry Mulligan, Charles, Rose Pourtier, 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 December: For persons with disabilities

"We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation."

LET US  
ADORE HIM  
*Christ the Lord*

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Order by 1:30pm  
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**Will Brewer**  
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John 1



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