

Saint John XXIII University Parish/Catholic Center

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The Paulist Fathers Serving the University of Tennessee

September 21, 2025

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Am 8:4-7; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13

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 NO Saturday MASS on HOME FOOTBALL GAMES

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 rmwhitney3@gmail.com

Religious Education at Saint John XXIII is starting up for the 2025-2026 school year!

Religious Education at Saint John XXIII Parish's main goal is to help your child foster a love for the beauty and goodness of the Catholic faith. If you are wanting to register your child for Religious Ed, please scan the QR code and fill out the form. The registration fee is \$35.00 for the first child, and any additional child is \$10.00

more. Classes will start on

Sept. 28 from 10 am - 11 am in Lounge

Thank you for considering
Saint John XXIII for the Religious
Education of your child!



Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, September 14 Reflection:

I attended a seminar about the newly elected Pope Leo XIV. One speaker, a longtime activist, recalled the times of Pope Leo XIII in the late 1800s. Europe's Industrial Revolution ended the rural agrarian character of West Europe as peasant families moved to cities and became factory workers. Shanty town living and working conditions were terrible. Legal and social structures protecting workers and children did not yet exist. Socialist parties were organizing. Leo XIII spoke up calling the Catholic Church to step forward involving itself in these new struggles. This activist turned to our times when immigrants live in fear, laws protecting creation are weakened, and wars are everywhere. He reflected that perhaps Pope Leo XIV chose that name because we were now in a period similar to the one Leo XIII faced, a time of massive changes.

This activist felt that everything was coming apart. Why?. Of course, some will say it is just politics talking but there is a growing sense of insecurity everywhere. People pray but lament the fact that prayer alone seems ineffective. Today's feast calls for a long look at the cross. What do you see? Some see terrible suffering and others a reminder of tragic human failure. In Catholic churches, the cross is always visible. For believers, it calls us to salvation – a compassionate love and forgiveness which can't be obscured or destroyed. It is the lasting bedrock of a divinely inspired path to a realm where God rules. Also the cross is a disturbing reminder of Jesus invitation to follow him. Many are willing to do so but hope to place limits on how far.

In fact, what does the command to follow him imply? Do we seek out suffering to join him on the cross? The only reason Jesus sought out suffering was to offer healing or loving relief. Our call is to allow the Spirit's love that is poured into our hearts to govern out lives. Our trust is placed in God's provident love enabling us to imitate the Samaritan or the Father of the prodigal son. The church community nourishes us and offers rest. No news, a life like that leads to suffering but what we will remember is the love. Looking at the cross will help us to find the narrow gate. Lift high the cross and expect a good and abundant life.

Charles Mulligan







TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

When the Roman Empire turned a favorable eve toward the once-persecuted Christians, among the effects was a population explosion in the baptismal font, as Christian sympathizers stepped from the shadows. With more and more people becoming Christians, laws were passed to protect Sunday as a work-free day. Soon, it became possible to celebrate Mass later in the morning, rather than the older custom of gathering before dawn to celebrate Eucharist. Amazingly, despite the increasing numbers of Christians, there was great resistance to adding to the number of worship events; the Eucharist that began as a few friends around a table soon was transformed into a more formal event with throngs crowding a large hall. All the Christians in a city or town would gather around the bishop for the one Sunday Eucharist, and only when the crowds became unmanageable was there an impulse to divide the assembly by splitting off a new bishop and flock.

Now, sixteen hundred years later, many parishes see a need to trim or combine Mass schedules. This is often seen as tough surgery. Yet our forebears in the faith would see it as a gain: a filling up of the Eucharist with a large and vigorous assembly, a fullness of ministry, an opportunity to make the Church more fully visible and stronger for service.

—James Field

St. John XXIII Staff

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If you still have not signed up for Flocknote please do so now. We will be using this to help with announcing Weather closures and other immediate changes to schedules. We also send out a weekly email through this to keep you informed.



If you're not a fan of QR codes, you can use your computer to go to: https://l.ead.me/bf4g2M and register.



Scripture Readings:

Sunday

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Am 8:4-7; Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13

Monday

Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6; Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday

Memorial of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday

Ezr 9:5-9; Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8; Lk 9:1-6

Thursday

Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; Lk 9:7-9

Friday

Hg 2:1-9; Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4; Lk 9:18-22

Saturday

Memorial of Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest

Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jer 31:10, 11-12ab,13; Lk 9:43b-45

NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

Sept 22 - Sept 28

Monday: 5:05 pm - Daily Mass

4:00 pm - Confessions

Tuesday: 5:05 pm - Daily Mass

Wednesday: 5:05 pm - Daily Mass

7:00 pm - VolCatholic

Thursday: 5:05 pm - Daily Mass

4:00 pm - Confessions

Friday: 5:05 pm - Daily Mass

Saturday: 5:30 pm - Mass

Sunday: 9:00 am - Mass

10:00 am - Resident Community 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 Allen McGinley, Bruce Whitcomb, Cheryl & John Newell, Diego Puigserver, Eleanore Hartrick and Family, Erin Evans, Fiorina Buckner, Fr. Gwen Sweeden, John Mulligan, Fred Boucher, Jerry Carney, Jim Romain, John R Sweat, Julia Biagiarelli, Karen Pearson Rich, Kathy Buckingham, Kevin and Melissa Brott, Mary Ann Haggerty, Mary Pat Hable, Michelle & Scott O'Connell, Pamela Roane, Pauline Lemieux, Raegan Burcham-Hall, Stephen Tracy, Susan Herndon, Tom Mulligan, Tom O'Brien, Troy Tagget, Vance Hutchings, Vic and Barbara Kaminsky, and those serving in the military, residents of NHC North, and for any too reserved to let us know.

To watch the 11:15 Mass Online, visit our Website at John23rd.org, where you will find a link at the bottom of the page. or Use the QR Code.





Donate Online to St. John XXIII!

Your help is needed for us to continue to serve the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends at the University of Tennessee.

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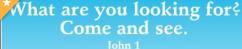


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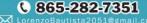
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