

**Saint John XXIII
University Parish/Catholic Center**

1710 Melrose Place

Knoxville, Tennessee 37916

Telephone: (865) 523-7931

Email: john23@utk.edu

Website: www.john23rd.org

The Paulist Fathers Serving the University of Tennessee

The Holy Family, and The Holy Mother of God

Dec 28, 2025 - Jan 1st, 2026

*Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14;
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17;
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23*

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Thursday at 5:05 pm

NO DAILY MASS Until Jan 5th

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:30 pm

Sunday: 9 am, 11:15 am,

**5:30 or 9 PM Masses on Sunday will Return
on Jan 18th**

This year's Mardi Gras party will be held on **Friday, February 13th!** Please start thinking of some nice donations for our Silent Auction! Please bring in any donations before Monday, February 9th (the sooner the better). Information on ticket sales and Pot Luck sign up will be coming soon.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Monday and Thursday - 4:00 pm to 4:45 pm
or by appointment

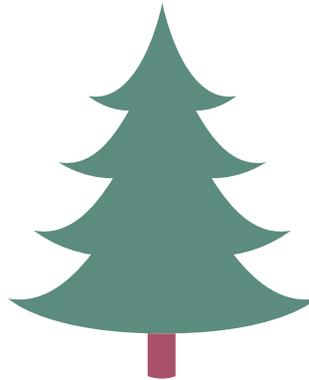
MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Congratulations!

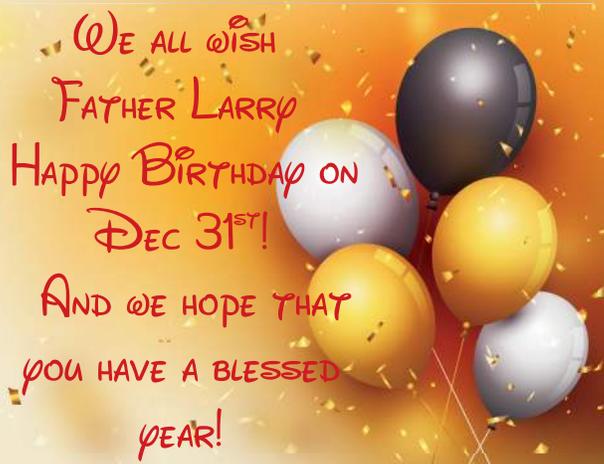
Please call the office at least 4 months before your planned wedding date.

WANT TO BE CATHOLIC?

Please contact Fr. Rich at
(865) 523-7931 or rmwhitney3@gmail.com



We will be UN-Decorating the Church on **January 11th after the 11:15 Mass.** We would appreciate all the help we can get. Food will be provided.



Thank you for your Generous Donations this Year

We would like to remind all parishioners about the requirements for charitable donations to be considered deductible for the current year (2025): The check must be dated 2025 AND if check is mailed, it must be postmarked in 2025 OR if it is given in a church collection plate or hand delivered to the church office, it must be given on or before December 31st.



Poinsettia Flower Donations

Madeline Hassill

In honor of the Living and Deceased members of the Fair Family

Jeanne Fair

Rev. Dan Whitman

In memory of Virginia Whitman and Joann Tacl

Patricia and Daniel Murphy

In honor of Campbell and Murphy Families

Janet and Allen Pearson

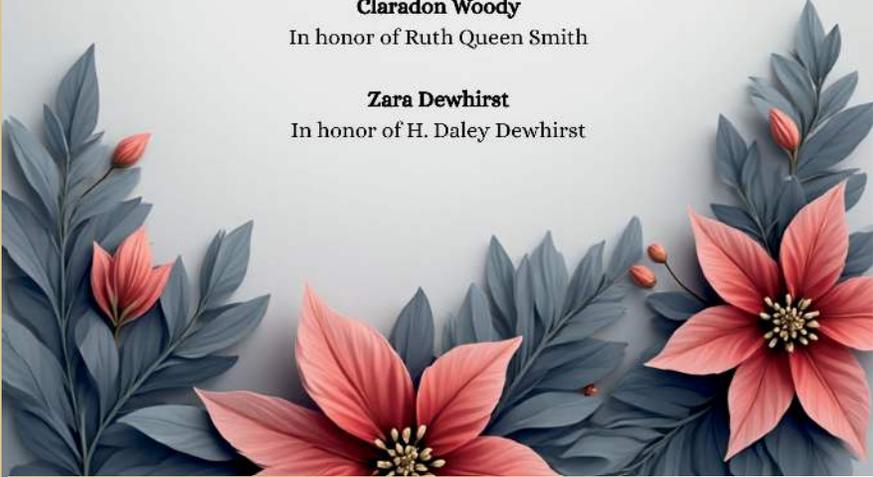
In honor of Rita and Frank Feaster and Christin Pearson Lawson

Claradon Woody

In honor of Ruth Queen Smith

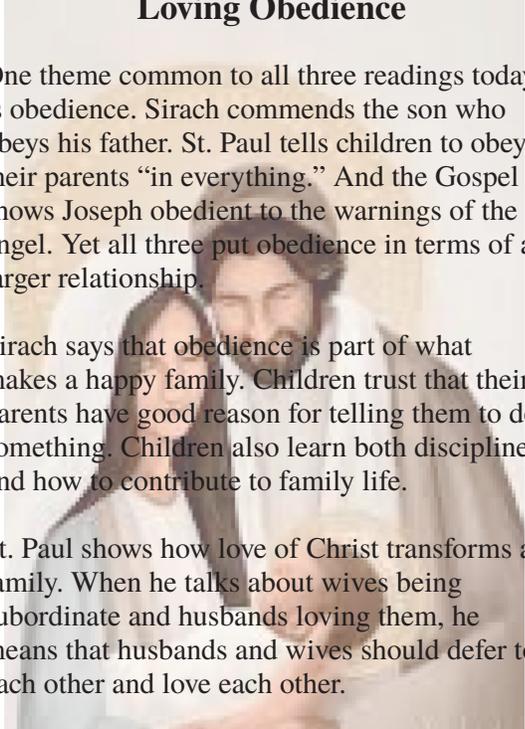
Zara Dewhirst

In honor of H. Daley Dewhirst



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Loving Obedience



One theme common to all three readings today is obedience. Sirach commends the son who obeys his father. St. Paul tells children to obey their parents “in everything.” And the Gospel shows Joseph obedient to the warnings of the angel. Yet all three put obedience in terms of a larger relationship.

Sirach says that obedience is part of what makes a happy family. Children trust that their parents have good reason for telling them to do something. Children also learn both discipline and how to contribute to family life.

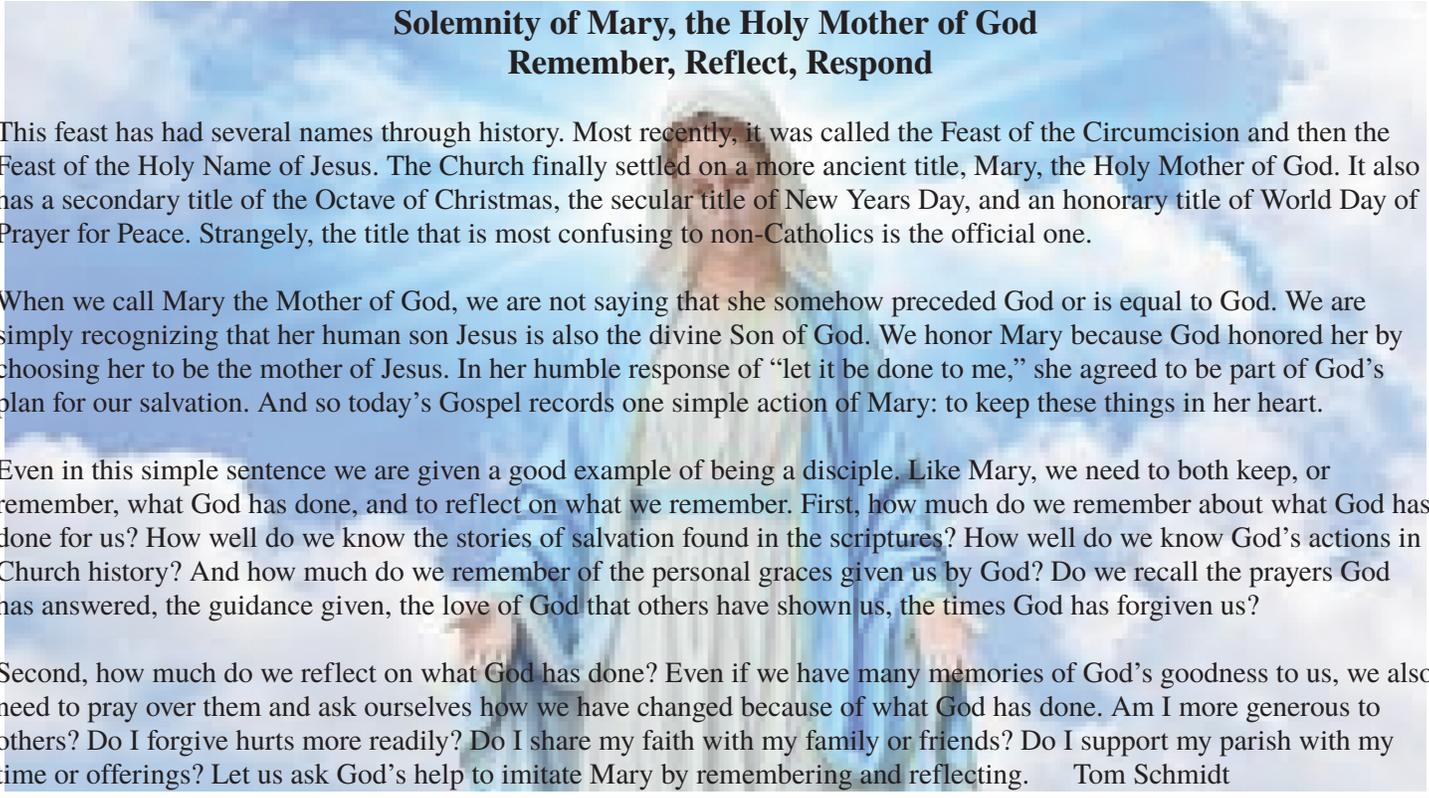
St. Paul shows how love of Christ transforms a family. When he talks about wives being subordinate and husbands loving them, he means that husbands and wives should defer to each other and love each other.

Parents might look at the gospel for support in encouraging obedience. Families can learn that stressing obedience can protect the child as well as teach. Parents can also remind children that God asks for obedience for our good, not on a whim. When we obey God’s law, we learn to trust God more deeply and to appreciate that God’s law enables us to live more freely.

Tom Schmidt,

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Remember, Reflect, Respond



This feast has had several names through history. Most recently, it was called the Feast of the Circumcision and then the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. The Church finally settled on a more ancient title, Mary, the Holy Mother of God. It also has a secondary title of the Octave of Christmas, the secular title of New Years Day, and an honorary title of World Day of Prayer for Peace. Strangely, the title that is most confusing to non-Catholics is the official one.

When we call Mary the Mother of God, we are not saying that she somehow preceded God or is equal to God. We are simply recognizing that her human son Jesus is also the divine Son of God. We honor Mary because God honored her by choosing her to be the mother of Jesus. In her humble response of “let it be done to me,” she agreed to be part of God’s plan for our salvation. And so today’s Gospel records one simple action of Mary: to keep these things in her heart.

Even in this simple sentence we are given a good example of being a disciple. Like Mary, we need to both keep, or remember, what God has done, and to reflect on what we remember. First, how much do we remember about what God has done for us? How well do we know the stories of salvation found in the scriptures? How well do we know God’s actions in Church history? And how much do we remember of the personal graces given us by God? Do we recall the prayers God has answered, the guidance given, the love of God that others have shown us, the times God has forgiven us?

Second, how much do we reflect on what God has done? Even if we have many memories of God’s goodness to us, we also need to pray over them and ask ourselves how we have changed because of what God has done. Am I more generous to others? Do I forgive hurts more readily? Do I share my faith with my family or friends? Do I support my parish with my time or offerings? Let us ask God’s help to imitate Mary by remembering and reflecting. Tom Schmidt

St. John XXIII Staff

Rev. Larry Rice, CSP, Pastor
lrice@paulist.org

Rev. Richard Whitney, CSP, Associate Pastor
rmwhitney3@gmail.com

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

Jennifer Stambaugh, Admin Asst
john23@utk.edu

Robert Edenfield, Facilities Manager
facilities@john23rd.org

**Mary Beth Aguilar,
Music Director**
john23music@gmail.com

**Kristofer Rucinski,
Assistant Music Director**
ksrucin@gmail.com

**Natalie Kimbro
Assistant Music Director**
natalie.s.kimbro@gmail.com

**Delaney Klee,
Director of Religious Education**
delaneyklee121@gmail.com

Josh Adkins, Campus Minister
jblaine20@gmail.com

Ashley McGlynn, Campus Minister
ashleymcglynn@gmail.com

Scripture Readings:

Sunday

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17;
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Monday

1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday

1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-8a; 8b-9, 10; Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday

1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13; Jn 1:1-18

Thursday

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Num 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Friday

**Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen,
Bishops and Doctors of the Church**
1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28

Saturday

1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34

NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

December 29 - January 4

**Friday, Dec. 26 -Friday, Jan 2:
Building and Office Closed
No Daily Mass or Confessions**

Thursday, January 1 : 10:00 am - Mass for Mary
Mother of God

Saturday, January 3: 5:30 pm - Mass

Sunday, January 4: 9:00 am - Mass
10:00 am - Adult Bible Study
11:15 am - Mass



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.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Let us pray for peace and justice throughout the world. Other prayers are needed for Allen McGinley, August Hunter Newell, Bernice Flowers, Bruce Whitcomb, Cheryl & John Newell, Diego Puigserver, Eleanore Hartrick and Family, Ellen Wavrek, Erin Evans, Fiorina Buckner, Fr. John Mulligan, Fred Boucher, Grace and Jack Newell, Gwen Sweden, Jim Romain, John R Sweat, Jordan Family, 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, Peg Hart, Pete, Newell, Raegan Burcham-Hall, Shelly McDonald, Sonny, 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.

We are contracted with Vanco Services for the processing of both one time and on-going electronic donations!
Please scan the QR code to donate:



Petrees Florist
Order by 1:30pm for same day delivery
3805 E. Magnolia Ave.
865-525-9447
www.PetreesFlorist.com

catholicmatch®
Tennessee



CatholicMatch.com/goTN



Will Brewer
Attorney at Law
865-246-6782

"Let Will Write Your Will"

Estate Planning and other legal services

 **Get this bulletin emailed to you every week.**

Simply go to www.DM.CHURCH/2558

...or scan 

DISCOVERMASS

What are you looking for? Come and see.
John 1



PAULIST FATHERS

beapaulist.org

SCAN WITH YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA AND LEARN MORE




BRAZEIROS
CHURRASCARIA
BRAZILIAN STEAKHOUSE

Little Valley Mountain Resort

1-800-581-7225
2229 Little Valley Road • Sevierville, TN
LittleValleyMountainResort.com

GUS'S WORLD FAMOUS FRIED CHICKEN

3101 Sutherland Ave. • 865-200-5468

TRUST MATTERS®
Your neighborhood roofer for over TWENTY YEARS!
865-868-ROOF (7663)
www.BarnettRoofingKnoxville.com

EWTN.COM/RADIO

EWTN Global Catholic Radio
TUNE IN

BS CONCRETE SERVICES

Free Estimates
Licensed & Insured

HOUSE SLABS • DRIVEWAYS • SIDEWALKS • FOOTERS
STAMP • P GRAVEL • DECKS, FLOORING, DRYWALL
PAINTING • PRESSURE WASHING • PAVERS & MORE!

865-282-7351
LorenzoBautista2051@gmail.com

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Avery Murphy

ADVERTISE HERE

Promote your Business AND support your Parish.
Scott Franz ~ 614-718-2990
sfranz@diocesan.com