

The Fatima Faithful newsletter is published once a month and is available in the bulletin, on our website, and accessible through Facebook. Let us know what you think! Email newsletter@ourladyoffatima.org with suggestions and pictures. The Newsletter Team: Vicki Johnson, Angie Feltz and Guest Columnists.

Take a Closer Look at the Liturgical Necessities

Prior to Mass the Sacristan prepares the items needed. Here is a listing of some of the items used:

- **Sacred Vessels:** These are the Ciborium (Ciboria), Paten and Chalices. They hold the bread and wine which becomes the Body and Blood of Christ during the Eucharistic Prayer.
- **Corporal:** A white linen cloth, square and often folded into nine sections, placed on the altar cloth during Mass, specifically during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Derived from the Latin corpus ("body"), its purpose is to catch any particles of the consecrated Host or drops from the Chalice, ensuring respect for the Body and Blood of Christ. It is unfolded on the altar cloth before the Consecration and acts as a foundation for the chalice and paten. It symbolizes the shroud in which Christ's body was wrapped. If the Precious Blood should by accident be spilled, it may be absorbed by the altar cloth before it reaches the altar-stone.
- **Purificator:** A white rectangular linen cloth used during Mass to cleanse the Chalice, Paten, and Ciboria after Communion. It is essential for respecting the Precious Body and Blood of Christ, and used at Holy Communion to wipe the chalice and by the priest or deacon to purify the Sacred Vessels.
- **Pall:** A stiffened square card covered with white linen, usually embroidered with a cross, or some other appropriate symbol. Its purpose is to keep dust and insects from falling into the Eucharistic elements.
- **Lavabo bowl and towel:** Used by the priest to wash and dry his hands signifying the desire for inner cleansing and purity.
- **Thurible (Censer) and Boat:** Holds the charcoal and incense at solemn Masses such as Confirmation, Holy Week and Easter, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, Christ the King, Christmas as well as the Funeral Mass of Christian Burial and Holy Days of Obligation. The incense is used to represent prayers rising to God.
- **Candles:** These include the Sanctuary light, Altar Candles and Votive candles. These represent prayer and remaining in the presence of God.
- **And most importantly hosts and wine:** Used for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

AMERICA FOR THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS by Deacon Bill Jacobs

"On November 11 [2025], the bishops of the United States voted to consecrate [our] nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The consecration will take place...to celebrate America's semiquincentennial, that is, the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. What does this mean? Why consecrate the nation to the Sacred Heart?"

...By celebrating this important national anniversary with this devotion, we have the opportunity to encourage all Catholics to honor our Lord and to 'infuse the spirit of the Gospel into various communities and departments of life.'

As we reflect with gratitude on the blessings God has bestowed on our country, our devotion to the Sacred Heart demands that we consider how we might foster truth, justice, and charity in American life. We are called to bring our faith into the actions we take and the lives we lead in our communities... remembering that 'God has a special place in his heart for those who are discriminated against and oppressed, and he asks us, his Church, to make a decisive and radical choice in favor of the weakest.' This anniversary and consecration will be a great opportunity to promote the beautiful devotion to the Sacred Heart and to encourage the laity to offer their lives in service to God and their country." --Archbishop Alexander Sample, USCCB Chair of the Committee for Religious Liberty

In the Catholic Church, the month of June is traditionally dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In this special year, the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, the United States Council of

Catholic Bishops is consecrating our country to the Sacred Heart.

The Heart of Jesus burns with a fiery love for mankind. His infinite, self-emptying love can act as a model for our actions as American citizens.

Jesus' Heart is portrayed as deeply moved by human suffering, loneliness, weakness, and sorrow. America is at its best when it tends with great care for those who are weakest and brings consolation to those who suffer, both in our country and around the world.

The Heart of Jesus symbolizes unwavering love — love that remains faithful even when rejected or ignored. In this great country, our care for our struggling neighbors should reflect this constancy, even when others are disagreeable or hard to love.

The Sacred Heart is often associated with Christ reigning over families, nations, and souls — not by force, but by love. We are celebrating the 250th anniversary of getting rid of the political rule of the British king, but the King of the Universe still deserves an important place in our hearts, as well as in our civic decision making.

The bishops of America are also encouraging that the Sacred Heart devotion become a part of our families. Our parish has been enthroned to the Sacred Heart. Many of our parishioners have had the Sacred Heart of Jesus enthroned over their families. Contact me if your family would like to do the same. What a special way to commemorate this important anniversary! Guided by the love and compassion of the King of our hearts, America will always be a shining example of love of neighbor, care for the poor and marginalized, and a generous sharer of the blessings of liberty.

The Helping Hand

Formed for Kids

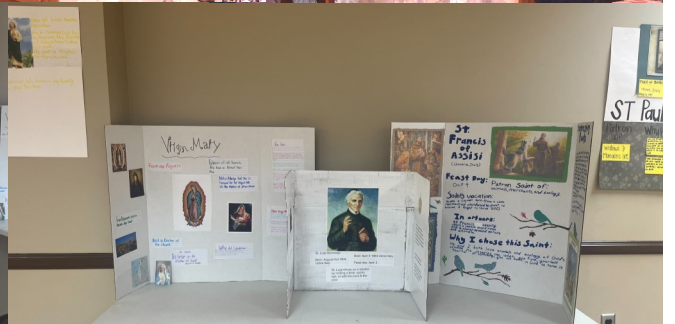
- Awesome Animals & Mini Me
- Totally Toddlers
- Brother Francis Sing Along Songs
- The Witnesses Trilogy

Formed for Teens

- Audio-Emotional Virtue by Sarah Swafford
- Audio-Because God is Real: Sixteen Questions, One Answer by Peter Kreeft
- Audio-Made for Greatness: Runway Model Turns to Christ by Leah Darrow
- Video-Seelos: Tireless Intercessor



Confirmation 2026



CCW Living Rosary



Outdoor Shrine to Our Lady of Fatima and May Crowning



Care for Creation Swap Meet and Hiking Trip



Indoor May Crowning



P e n t e c o s t



This spring the FOCUS MTSU team has seen great fruit amidst many obstacles. One exciting development has been two men leading bible studies and two other men trying to get studies started. First, we have Emmanuel J., a junior at MTSU. He has been leading his three friends in bible study since the Fall of 2025. Emmanuel, a convert to Catholicism, has a great desire to teach others about the Catholic faith and is a skilled bible study leader. I once attended his study and observed his friends enjoying the study and learning a great deal. Additionally, he presented the Gospel to his friend, Skylar, who enthusiastically declared his desire to make Jesus the center of his life. He also wanted to learn more about the Catholic faith since he had grown up as a Protestant Christian. Keep Skylar in your prayers as he considers attending OCIA.



The other student who started a bible study is Emanuel A, not to be confused with the other guy I mentioned initially. Emanuel, a master's student, began attending my bible study at the beginning of last Fall; immediately I sensed his desire to know God and live mission. Quickly I invited him into Growing Discipleship to help form him and then invited him to lead a bible study of his own. Almost at once, Emanuel began to meet up with his friends on campus to invite them into his study. He initially only had one student come, but we are both hopeful that more will attend in God's timing.

The other two men, John and Vincent, hope to lead studies after summer break when they are back on campus. John will likely be a co-leader with Emmanuel J., and Vincent plans to lead a bible study for couples with his girlfriend, Lynae.

Thank you for all your prayers and support for the students at Middle TN State University. Importantly and unfortunately, FOCUS will not be returning to MTSU, so Hannah and I have decided to join a new initiative within FOCUS called FOCUS Parish. We will be serving young families at Holy Rosary Church in Nashville at the request of Bishop Spalding and the pastor, Fr. Baker. We are excited to continue walking with others in their journey of faith and teaching them to live mission for Christ.

Saint of the Month by Marvin Sellers

Justin, known posthumously as Justin Martyr was born around 100 A.D. in Flavia Neapolis Palestine, and died in 165 in Rome. Justin is one of the most important Christian apologists in the early church. He was a pagan raised in a Jewish environment; he studied with a Stoic, a Peripatetic and Pythagorean philosopher before adopting Platonism. He became a Christian in 132 A.D. possibly at Ephesus, Turkey. He had a profound, life changing encounter with a Christian elder who convinced him that the testimony of prophets was more reliable than philosophers. Justin became convinced Christianity was the true "philosophy." After his conversion he continued to wear his philosopher's robe, symbolizing his pursuit of truth through Christian teaching. In the reign of Antoninus Pius (138–161), he arrived in Rome and started his own school. Justin proved to be a gifted evangelist bringing many Romans to the faith. During his life Christianity was outlawed and realizing that most of the persecution came from lies and false rumors, felt that if the government knew the truth about Christians it might stop it's persecution. He defended Christians from accusations of atheism and subversion, explained Christian moral teachings, and described early Christian worship. Most of Justin's writings were lost, but what survived include the First Apology and Second Apology, and Dialogue with Trypho. During the reign of Marcus Aurelius, Justin was given up to the Roman authorities after debating the cynical pagan philosopher Crescens. He was then tried by the urban prefect Junius Rusticus and together with six friends was beheaded because they refused to worship false gods. By no means forgotten, Irenaeus quotes Justin twice. Tertullian, in his Adversus Valentinianos, calls Justin a philosopher and a martyr and the earliest antagonist of heretics. Hippolytus and Methodius of Olympus also mention or quote him and Eusebius of Caesarea deals with him at some length. His feast day is June 1st. He is venerated as a Saint by the Catholic, Eastern and Oriental Orthodox, Lutheran, and Anglican traditions.



Spotlight on Sacristans by John and Joan Speck

Being a sacristan is a very beneficial way to serve your church community and an active way to participate in Mass. AT OLOF we are a team of men and women who work together to prepare for our liturgies. Some members have particular duties or specific masses. The starting point for all sacristans is a deep love for the Eucharist. Under the general direction of the clergy or deacon, the sacristan undertakes the overall preparation for liturgical celebrations. Specific duties include:

- 1) Preparing the Holy Eucharist for the celebration of the Mass. This includes readying the wine, water and hosts and putting them in place before the start of the Mass.
- 2) Sacristans may also arrange the Lectionary, the book containing the Readings for the Mass, when necessary.
- 3) Cleaning the sacred vessels after Mass. The sacred vessels for the water and wine, body and blood are cleaned and stored in the sacristy. Everything is set back in place before sacristans leave the church.

To become a sacristan, you need not already be a liturgical minister, but some experience with liturgical service is helpful. It is also important to have the following spiritual dispositions and/or willingness to be open to the Spirit working within you so that they develop: humility, gratitude and reverence.

- 1) Have 1.5 to 2 hours to give to the celebration of each assigned Eucharist. Be available to allow a longer time if the set-up is for a special liturgy such as Christmas, Holy Thursday and Easter, as well as Weddings and Funerals.
- 2) While a sacristan will not be scheduled to serve at more than one Mass per weekend; if necessary being willing to be scheduled for more than one Mass time in a weekend is possible.
- 3) Be open to preparing for special liturgical celebrations such as Thanksgiving, Holy Week, Confirmation or First Communion.
- 4) Each daily Mass is included in the need for a sacristan and subsequent scheduling.

Being a part of another Liturgical Ministry does not preclude you from becoming a Sacristan as these tasks only take place prior to and after the Celebration of the Mass. Some of our Sacristans are scheduled at a particular Mass each week, while others are available to substitute due to illnesses or vacations of the scheduled Sacristan. We are all here to serve our parish and our God. Learning to become a Sacristan is hands-on, practical training in the sacristy and on the Altar for new sacristans. If you are interested in becoming a Sacristan, or have already been a sacristan at another parish and would like to serve at Our Lady of Fatima, please contact the parish office or send an email to Sacristans@ourladyoffatima.org.

The following is the process that needs to be considered in anticipation of serving: