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THE FATIMA FAITHFUL



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 Church, Cathedral, Basilica. A church is a place of worship having a permanent congregation and run by a pastor or priest; referring to the actual space and/or the congregation. Churches are found in all denominations of Christianity, from the grandest architectural wonder to congregants gathering regularly without a permanent physical space. A **chapel** is physical space for worship with no pastor or priest and no permanent congregation.

A **cathedral** is a church that's run by a bishop and the principal church within a diocese. It's named for the *cathedra*, the special chair in which a bishop sits. It is the spiritual and administrative heart of a diocese where the bishop holds his cathedra, a symbol of his spiritual and pastoral authority over that region. Historically, cathedrals are usually the largest and most imposing churches, decorated with works of art and treasures.

There are two types of **basilicas**: basilicas major and basilicas minor. The term Basilica, from the Greek "basilikós" meaning "royal", signifies the house of the king. Within the Church, the term has been adopted to mean the house of the Lord and is an honorary title granted directly by the Pope. The basilicas major are the four personal churches of the pope in and around Rome. According to the Vatican document *Domus ecclesiae*, criteria for a minor basilica include: Historical and Spiritual significance: Standing out as a center of active, pastoral liturgy; Architectural and Artistic worth: Featuring notable design or antiquity; Devotional importance: Hosting large numbers of pilgrims, and may include important relics or the tomb of a saint. Basilicas minor can be found around the world. In the world of religious architecture, one often also hears about Duomos especially in Italy but also in Europe. It often is used to refer to the main church of a city; the most prestigious and important. Interestingly there can be more than 1 duomo in a city. Although St. Peter's Basilica is a papal basilica, the cathedral of Rome is the Basilica of St. John Lateran.

Hope Has a Human Face by Fr. Renzo Alvarado

There are times when we all need someone to walk beside us. An illness, a loss, concern for our children, or a difficult decision can make the future feel uncertain. As I look at our parish community, I think of the many quiet stories that meet at the same altar every Sunday. We come with gratitude and joy, but also with questions we do not yet know how to express. At such times, it helps me to remember that Christian hope comes from God's faithfulness. Its foundation is the risen Jesus Christ: the one who knew suffering, passed through death, and opened before us a horizon of life. This is why I can hope even when I cannot find immediate answers. My life remains in the hands of a God who loves me and walks with me. This trust leaves room for our emotions. Feeling afraid, crying, or admitting that we are tired is part of being human. Sometimes we need time to understand what we are experiencing; at other times, we need someone whose presence allows us to speak without feeling judged. Faith can sustain us precisely there, in our weakness, as we learn to accept help and take the next step. In our own community, people experience this uncertainty in different ways: those awaiting a diagnosis, those grieving someone's absence, those worried about their children, and immigrant families facing difficult questions about their future. As a priest, I wonder how we can help one another experience God's closeness. Sometimes hope begins when someone listens patiently and helps us feel that our life matters to them.

The Church reminds us that every person has a dignity that remains beyond their circumstances, as *Dignitas infinita* teaches. This conviction changes how I see my neighbor. It invites me to discover a story before making a judgment, to ask before assuming, and to recognize that a person is always more than the difficulty they are facing. In *Fratelli tutti*, Pope Francis presents hope as an attitude that can open us to great ideals and to encounters with others. From this perspective, hoping also means taking part: giving our time, reaching out to someone who is alone, accompanying a family, or helping someone find practical support. Each gesture can open a small possibility where someone could see only worry.

The Eucharist forms our hearts for this way of life. When we receive Christ, we also receive a call to care for the communion he builds among us. At Our Lady of Fatima, we share one bread and learn to carry one another's burdens. Our differences can become opportunities to know each other better and discover gifts that enrich the whole community. I would like our parish to be a place where we can say with confidence: here I can ask for prayer, share a concern, and find companionship. That trust grows when we listen respectfully, protect the privacy of others, and offer help while respecting their decisions. Hope matures in relationships where each person can feel recognized and supported. Under the motherly gaze of Our Lady of Fatima, I ask myself a question that I share with you: who needs a sign of hope through me today? Perhaps a phone call, a visit, or a thoughtful conversation could be the beginning. The risen Christ goes before us; we can reach out to one another and walk together.

"At Our Lady of Fatima, we share one bread and learn to carry one another's burdens."

The Helping Hand



Advent Resources

Formed: Rooted: Using the Jesse Tree model for families

Amazon Book: Hope and Light for Advent: Guided Reflections with Fr. Mark Thibodeaux

Advent and Christmas with the Church Fathers: A Seven-Week Retreat on the Mystery and the Meaning of the Incarnation

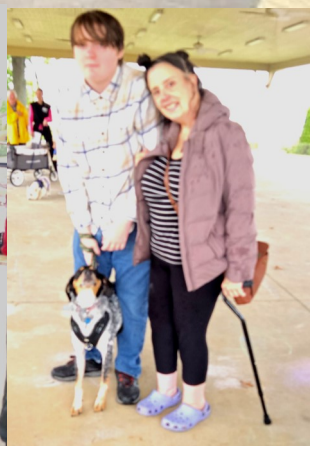
Ascension App: Joy to the Word: Advent with Fr. Mike Schmitz

St Francis Blessing of Pets









Council of Catholic Women

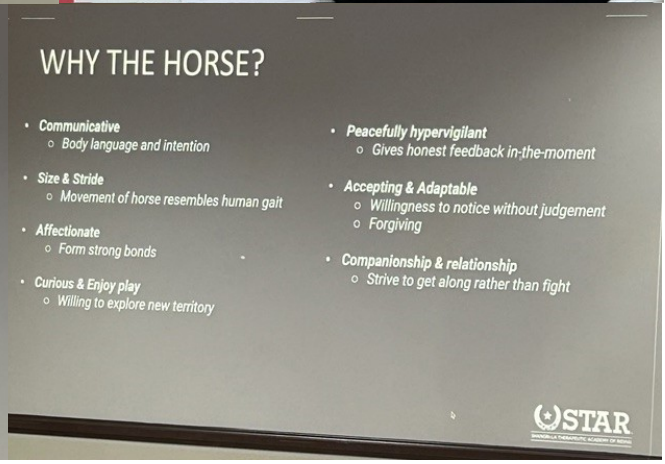












Knights of Columbus Golf Tournament



Parish Town Hall Meeting





Meet OLOF Parish Pastoral Council Members (not all present) by Missy Satterfield. The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is a committee that meets monthly and has as members: our priests, 9 parishioners, the Finance Committee chairperson, and at least one OLOF staff member. The Catholic Church differs from our Protestant neighbors in that our Pastoral Council has no legal or fiduciary authority. Pastoral council does not hire the pastor, nor does it control the purse strings. Its role is strictly advisory, as the priests are accountable to the bishop for the spiritual and material well-being of the parish. Some examples of our responsibilities and meeting agenda items: discussing, then approving or rejecting proposals for parish improvements; creating, implementing and monitoring a 5-year strategic plan for the parish; acting as ministry liaisons; planning parish-wide events & helping the priests and staff prioritize parish needs. One of the results of a council member's recent efforts was the new traffic lighting system at the church exit onto Louisville Rd, making exiting the parking lot much safer. As ministry liaisons we reach out to ministry leaders each month to ask if they have any needs, concerns or would like to update the PPC on their activities. It is an effective way for ministries to communicate to the council and clergy and we are always interested in their activities as the hands of God to our parishioners. Recently, the PPC organized the International Dinner, the farewell reception for Fr Joe and the welcome reception for Fr Joseph. With lots of help from the Knights of Columbus, we also organized the Parish Picnic where we were happy to see the largest attendance ever! Members are committed to showing up at parish events, listening to, and understanding parishioners' concerns, interacting with the staff & clergy, participating in creating and adjusting priorities. Please keep the Parish Pastoral Council in your prayers as we work for the betterment of the parish and ultimately, the Glory of God.

Focus by George Carter

The past four years, I served as a missionary on two college campuses and shared some of those experiences here. Now, I step into a new role with FOCUS as a Parish Missionary. In the future, I plan to share the ways God is working through me at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Nashville, but today I want to share why I'm a missionary and how you are all called to mission also. When I left for college, I had every intention of living my Catholic faith. However, my conviction was mainly based on the friendships I had developed growing up at OLOF. In college I was separated from that community and the new friendships I made were not based on shared faith. As a result, I drifted away with the secular culture that didn't encourage me to grow my relationship with Jesus but to enjoy more worldly pursuits. Fortunately, through the effort of Catholic acquaintances, a fatherly chaplain, and Focus Missionaries, I experienced a deep renewal of my faith that has allowed the Holy Spirit to continue to draw me deeper into relationship with Him. It was during this time of reconversion that I became aware of an important call that Jesus Christ gives to all baptized Christians, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Mt 28:18–20). This is the mission Jesus entrusted to the Church, and he invites all of us who are baptized to participate in this work of evangelization as missionary disciples (cf. CCC 831). As Pope Francis said, "In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt 28:19)." The realization of this call led me to give my life to Christ as a missionary with FOCUS on a college campus and now, together with my wife, as missionaries in a parish; where we seek to encounter others, encourage them in their faith, and to equip them to walk with others in imitation of Jesus Christ. How is Christ inviting you to answer His call to missionary discipleship?

Saint of the Month by Marvin Sellers



St Elizabeth of the Trinity (1880-1906) was a French Carmelite nun whose brief life became one of the most profound explorations of Trinitarian indwelling in modern Catholic spirituality. Born Elizabeth Catez on July 18, 1880, she was the daughter of Cpt. Joseph Catez, who died when she was 7, and Marie Rolland. Elizabeth was strong willed and quick tempered as a child, yet deeply sensitive. She was an exceptionally gifted pianist, studying at the Dijon Conservatory and winning first prize in piano at age 13. Her interior life drew her away from a concert career. Elizabeth experienced an intense awareness of God's presence after her 1st Communion. Privately she pledged herself to Christ and spent hours in prayer. Her mother opposed a religious vocation, hoping for a marriage; but after years of resistance, Elizabeth entered the Discalced Carmel in Dijon on Aug 2, 1901. In Carmel, her life appeared externally ordinary: prayer, work, community life. Internally, it was consumed by a single mystery: that the Trinity dwells in the baptized soul. She wrote, "I have found my heaven on earth, since heaven is God and God is in my soul." Drawing from St Paul, St John of the Cross and St Teresa of Avila, she developed a spirituality centered on adoration, self-forgetfulness, and becoming a Praise of Glory, Laudem Gloriae, as she called it. Her writings, personal notes, retreats, and letters, especially "heaven in faith," were written for her sister Guite and for friends outside the cloister. In early 1906 she fell ill with Addison's disease, then untreatable. The final months were agonizing, yet marked by extraordinary peace and abandonment. She died on November 9, 1906, at age 26; was beatified by John Paul II in 1984 and canonized by Francis on October 16, 2016. Her message remains simple yet radical, ordinary life can become a continual prayer if we attend to the guest within! A call that continues to resonate with laypeople and contemplatives alike. She is the patron saint of the sick, those fighting illness, and those who have lost their parents.

Spotlight on Vocations by Jedd Krintz

National Vocations Awareness Week: November 2–8

The Catholic Church is alive and well in the southeastern United States, and the Diocese of Knoxville is growing rapidly. During the 2025–2026 catechetical year, nearly 1,100 adults entered the Catholic Church in our diocese. With this growth comes an important responsibility: preparing for the future and ensuring that we have faithful leaders to guide God's people. Recognizing this need, Bishop Beckman asked parishes throughout the diocese about a year ago to begin efforts to promote vocational discernment.

That request marked the beginning of the Our Lady of Fatima Vocations Committee.

God calls each of us to a particular vocation through which we can grow in holiness and serve Him and others. Some are called to Married Life, others to Religious Life, some to the Priesthood, and still others to Single Life. Our committee's mission is twofold: to recognize and celebrate those who are living out their vocations and to help others discover the path God may be calling them to follow.

Young people today encounter countless influences that shape their ideas about the future. They see examples of people pursuing careers, raising families, and serving their communities. Yet, how often do children consider the Priesthood or Religious Life as possibilities for their own lives? Our committee hopes to change that by creating opportunities for children and young people in our parish to learn about the many ways they can serve God and His Church. By introducing them to people who are joyfully living out their vocations, we hope to help them recognize the possibilities and remain open to God's call.

We also believe it is important to celebrate and support those who have already discerned their vocations. Our committee organizes opportunities to express gratitude to our priests and others who serve our parish and diocese. In October, we hosted "Donuts with the Deacons," an opportunity to thank our deacons for their service and learn more about their vocations, including the important role their wives play in supporting their ministry. We continue to explore ways our parish can encourage and show appreciation for those faithfully living out their callings.

Our committee meets monthly to plan events and develop new ideas for promoting vocations throughout the parish. If you would like to learn more about a particular vocation, we would be happy to arrange a conversation with someone who can share their experience. We also welcome anyone interested in joining our committee. New members and fresh ideas are always appreciated!

Please join us in praying for those discerning their vocations and for the courage to answer God's call. Together, we can help ensure that future generations hear His voice and respond with open hearts.