



SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC CHURCH †

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MARCH 10, 2024

Pastor: Rev. Mark Scholz (423)837-7068

Deacon: Mike Butz

Sr. Maria Del Pilar Hnojosa Aguilar (423)463-1541

Mass Schedule: Sunday 8:00 a.m.
Thursday 7:00 p.m. (Hispanic)

Adoration:

Confessions: 7:30—7:50 a.m. Sunday before mass
& by request.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Mission Statement

We will use our skills and resources to promote, maintain and encourage a supportive community that earns the respect and recognition of our neighbors both near and far as we proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.



If you are a new parishioner, or would like to become one, you are invited to stop by the Office to register. **If you are visiting**, we extend a Special Welcome. We hope you find it spiritually rewarding and will come back.

Daily Readings for the week March 10

Sunday: 2Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53

Sunday: Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

Today is our monthly second collection for the Sequatchie County Fellowship of Churches food bank and charity. ★

First Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23
The causes for the Israelites' captivity in Babylon are described. ★

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 137:1-2,3,4-5,6
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10
In grace we have been saved, so that we may do the work of the Lord.

Gospel Reading: John 3:14-21
Jesus tells Nicodemus that the Son of Man will be raised up so that those who believe in him will have eternal life.

★ Installation of our new floor downstairs is ongoing. It will continue this week. Please be cautious.

★ = New, Updated, or Important

Saint Michael the Archangel Prayer

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the divine power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. **-Amen**

★ **Prayer to Receive a New Bishop**

Praise to You, Lord our God, our Eternal Shepherd and Guide.

We know that all authority comes from You. With confidence in Your providence, we entreat You to provide the Diocese of Knoxville a new shepherd after Your own heart.

In your love for us, send us a shepherd who will lead us in being Christ's heart of mercy, voice of hope, and hands of justice.

Help him to fill our minds and hearts with the truth of the Gospel, the power of the sacraments, and the desire to build up Your Holy Church.

We pray through Christ our Lord. AMEN

Background on the Gospel Reading

★ The fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Traditionally, Sundays are named after the first word of the liturgy's opening antiphon. On this Sunday, the antiphon is taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 66:10-11). Even as we observe our Lenten sacrifices, we rejoice in anticipation of the joy that will be ours at Easter.

Today's Gospel reading is taken from John's Gospel. It consists of two parts. The first part is the final sentence of Jesus' reply to Nicodemus, the Pharisee who approached Jesus at night. Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus as someone who had come from God and seemed to want to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus greeted Nicodemus with the observation that one must be born from above to see the Kingdom of God. The dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus that followed was about the meaning of this phrase. Nicodemus misunderstood Jesus at every point, but there was no animosity in the questions he posed to Jesus.

In the part of the conversation with Nicodemus in today's Gospel, Jesus referred to an incident reported in the Old Testament. When the Israelites grumbled against the Lord during their sojourn in the desert, God sent venomous serpents to punish them for their complaints. The Israelites repented and asked Moses to pray for them. The Lord heard Moses' prayer and instructed him to make a bronze serpent and mount it on a pole. All who had been bitten by a serpent and then looked upon the bronze serpent were cured. By recalling this story, Jesus alludes to the salvation that would be accomplished through his death and Resurrection.

The second part of today's Gospel is a theological reflection on Jesus' words to Nicodemus. The Gospel of John is known for this kind of reflection offered within the narrative. The words of the Evangelist are in continuity with the words of the prologue to John's Gospel. In these reflections, John elaborates on a number of themes that are found in his Gospel: light and darkness, belief and unbelief, good and evil, salvation and condemnation.

In John's reflection, we find an observation about human sinfulness. Jesus is the light that has come into the world, but people preferred the darkness. We wish to keep our sins hidden, even from God. Jesus has come into the world to reveal our sins so that they may be forgiven. This is the Good News; it is the reason for our rejoicing in this season of Lent and throughout our lives. **Loyola Press**

As part of the Diocese of Knoxville's commitment to fulfill Pope Francis' call to synodality, ★

the diocese has scheduled two listening sessions open to anyone who would like to participate on Saturday, March 16 at 10:30 a.m. and Tuesday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the chancery in Knoxville.

You can RSVP at this site, <https://dioknox.org/synod-listening-session-registration>

These listening sessions will focus on the questions:

- How can we encourage and enhance stronger relationships between the Church's structures/ organizations/ leadership/life of each baptized

Monthly Schedule		
Date	Lectors	Intercessions
03/10/2024	John West Michelle Nuñez	Greg Higgins
03/17/2024	Bob Main Nagore Luzuriaga	David Tuggle
03/24/2024	Don Lamb Michelle Nuñez	Greg Higgins
03/31/2024	Mary Anne Moyer Nagore Luzuriaga	David Tuggle
04/07/2024	Lisa Tuggle Michelle Nuñez	Greg Higgins

Last Sunday—March 3	
Mass Attendance: 88	
Collections:	\$ 1,700
Food Bank:	\$
Online Giving:	\$ 125
2nd Collection :	\$
Online Giving is available through our website. Note: Collection includes all previous week Masses	

	December	YTD
Collection:	\$ 7,370	\$ 75,965
Expenses:	<u>\$ 5,321</u>	<u>\$ 59,267</u>
Net:	\$ 2,049	\$ 16,698

person that moves us towards greater unity as one Body of Christ in proclaiming the Risen Lord and His Gospel?

- Where have I seen or experienced challenges and/or difficulties within the Church that hinder the mission and how do I think the Church can better address these challenges and difficulties?
- Where have I seen or experienced successes within the Church that support the mission, and how do I think we can build upon these successes?
- What is needed to help all baptized respond to our shared mission to proclaim the Gospel and live as a community of Love and Mercy?

Efforts are being made to allow limited Zoom participation. Additionally, participants can respond to an online survey that will be made available soon. Your participation will allow the diocese to produce a final report for the October 2024 Synod of Bishops in Rome.

This is the fourth phase of the universal synod called by Pope Francis in 2021 on the theme of synodality: “For a synodal Church: communion, participation, and mission.”

You can learn more about the synod process in the Diocese of Knoxville and find synodal resources on the diocesan synod page here.

<https://dioknox.org/synod-2023>



Are you feeling depressed? Isolated? Worried? Overwhelmed?

There is hope. Catholic Charities of East Tennessee offers counseling services in the Knoxville and Chattanooga areas. In Knoxville, please call 865-963-4420. In Chattanooga, please call 423-322-0057. If you are in crisis and need immediate help, or if you are worried about someone who may be in a crisis, help is available by calling the Tennessee Statewide Crisis Line at 855-CRISIS-1 (855-274-7471) or the Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255

We Welcome Everyone

If you would like to register, change your address, or have questions about our parish, please fill out the form and drop it in the collection basket.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

email: _____

____ I would like to enroll as an active parishioner.

____ Please change my address to the one above.

____ I would like to learn more about the Catholic faith.

____ I would like to volunteer as a Reader, Usher, Maintenance helper or some other capacity.

____ Please Contact Me.



Food Bank: Don't forget to bring in your favorite canned food items. Always in need of plastic bags, canned green vegetables (green beans, peas, etc) and canned protein foods (tuna, salmon, etc). Any donations can be dropped off here at church for delivery to the food bank.

PLEASE NOTE ! No food in the sanctuary or narthex. All food should be confined to the kitchen area and large dining room. If spills do occur anywhere in the church, please take the time to clean it up. Food on the floor attract ants and other insect. So please be careful and clean up. Parents, please watch your children. Thank you !

The Tabernacle Lamp is lit to indicate the living presence of Jesus Christ in the tabernacle and to Honor and Glorify Him. Parishioners may request to have the Tabernacle Candle burn for one week in memory of a loved one, in thanksgiving, or for a special intention. Intentions will be published in the weekly bulletin. There is **NO** donation requirement, although donations are accepted. Please contact Kathy West at dandkwest@bledsoe.net or in person or (423)554-3289 to schedule a Lamp memorial week.

Mass Intentions: If you would like to request a Mass intention, there are white envelopes in the Narthex. All Mass Intentions are offered at Our Lady of Lourdes. If the date you request is not available, we'll come as close as we can to that date. A \$5 donation is requested, but **not required**.

Please continue to bring in your plastic shopping bags to be re-used at the Food Bank. Just drop them off in the Narthex and they will be collected and carried to the Food Bank.

Volunteers are always needed for grounds caring, church cleaning, ushers, readers, etc. Please see Father Mark or any council member to serve in God's work.

Please submit all bulletin announcements,
to Don West - (423) 554-3289
shepherdofthevalleyindunlap@yahoo.com

The Sunday bulletin is available through our website on the Friday night before Sunday.

Parish Secretary: Mary Anne Moyer
Bookkeeper: Don West
Dir. Religious Education: Erin Lamb
Council of Catholic Women: Linda Lambert

Council Members : Fr. Mark; Darcy Cogar, MaryAnne Moyer; Linda Lambert, Lisa Tuggle, Sherry Perez

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)
RCIA is a program for adults who wish to become Catholic or who wish to learn more about the Catholic faith. Please contact Fr. Mark.

If you would like to have your Anniversary, Birthday or any Special Event mentioned in the bulletin, please come by the finance office after mass and let me know, or send an email to the church email address or place a note in the collection basket.

If you know of anyone on our Prayer List who has recovered, or if you would like to add someone to the list, please share that information with the Parish office so the list can be updated.

Please Remember in your Prayers

The Smith Family, Karen Sprague, Gee Miller, Jeremy Holmes, Margaret Robin, Judith Winner, Jan Schumacher, Richard Kern, Melinda Hendon, Mary Ann Keukel, Adam Turner, Mary Ellen Majewski, Kathy West, Linda Slomian, Dorothy Creedon

In Memoriam

Larry Fish, Emma Hankins, Joan Scholz, Laura Moyer, John Kaprelian, David Ramirez
