



From the Desk of **FATHER JULIUS**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ; Grace and Peace!

After calling his followers "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world" last weekend, this weekend Our Lord develops the deeper meaning of "the law and the prophets" in what will become known as "*the New Law*." He encourages us to reflect wisely on our observance of the laws given to us by God, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, especially in the New Testament. Jesus explains that he has come not to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but to fulfill them: "*I have come not to abolish but to fulfill*." This means to discern and carry out what God truly desires and thus bring the law and the prophets to completion.

In today's First Reading from Sirach, the choice is clear: "*If you choose, you can keep the commandments... before you are life and death; whichever you choose shall be given you*" In the Second Reading, St. Paul encourages the Church at Corinth to grasp the unseen wisdom of God's saving plan, hidden for ages, but now revealed by the Spirit. The psalmist, in turn, begs the Lord for instruction and discernment, that His law may be kept always in our hearts.

In St. Matthew's Gospel, Jesus urges his disciples to live lives of justice and virtue that exceed even those of the scribes and Pharisees. Jesus, as the new lawgiver, gives a deeper interpretation and fuller meaning to the Mosaic Law. How radical it is to hear Jesus reveal the deeper intention behind these laws! When Our Lord speaks of "*the New Law*," he means a law of love, a law that moves us to act out of love infused by the Holy Spirit, rather than out of fear. It is a law of grace, a law that confers the strength to act through the grace of God dwelling within us, a grace we have received through the sacraments. In love, we care deeply and passionately about our relationship with God and with one another.

Placing these thoughts in the context of today's Gospel, Jesus asks us to pay particular attention and to learn from the behaviors of the scribes and Pharisees. Although they possessed a certain kind of goodness and external holiness, they still failed to follow the law as God originally intended. Jesus clarifies this but does not condemn them for the goodness they sought, but for what was lacking in their hearts. There was no depth. Their thoughts and actions were governed by external observance and by how they appeared in the eyes of others. The love of God and the love of neighbor that flows from it never truly filled their inner lives.

They did not murder, yet they allowed themselves to hate. They did not commit adultery, yet they permitted themselves to view women merely as objects of pleasure. All such adulterate genuine love and demean the dignity of others. Therefore, we pray especially in the Holy Mass, through our daily recitation of the Rosary, and in all of our prayers that our hearts may be inclined toward true charity, the charity that comes from God alone that is not born out of our own selfish desires! Let us embrace this "New Law!"

A Blessed Sunday!

This Week's Readings and Mass Intentions

Mon., Feb 16: *Jas 1: 1-11, Mk 8: 11-13*

9:00 a.m. – No Mass – Office CLOSED (President's Day)

Tue., Feb 17: *Jas 1: 12-18, Mk 8: 14-21*

9:00 a.m. Mass - **†** Sr. Mary Loyola Mathia by Don & Claudia Brazeau

Wed., Feb 18: *Jl 2: 12-18, 2 Cor 5: 20 – 6:2, Mt 6: 1-6, 16-18*

9:00 a.m. Mass - **†** Poor Souls in Purgatory by ---

7:00 p.m. Mass - **†** Catherine Ann DeLorenzo by Mike McGrath

Thu. Feb 19: *Dt 30: 15-20, Lk 9: 22-25*

9:00 a.m. Mass - Bishop Athanasius Schneider (Intentions) by -

9:00 a.m. – No Mass – Office CLOSED (President's Day)

Fri., Feb 20: *Is 58: 1-9a, Mt 9: 14-15*

9:00 a.m. Mass - **†** Francis Laird (birthday Remembrance) by The Beaver's Family

Sat., Feb 21: *Is 58: 9b-14, Lk 5: 27-32*

4:00 p.m. Mass - **†** George H. Hunt by The Parish Family

Sun., Feb 22: *Gn 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7, Rom 5: 12-19 or 5: 12, 17-19, Mt 4:1-11*

8:00 a.m. Mass - **†** Ann Maccarini by The MacDuff's Family

10:00 a.m. Mass - **†** Kathryn Van Vleet by The Heinemann Family

12:30 p.m. Mass – People of the Parish

This week, the Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory of Paul R. Griego by The Griego's Family.

Altar Flowers donated in Memory of Alan Beavers by The Beaver's Family.

Call the office to donate for the Sanctuary Lamp or for Altar Flowers, for a loved one or in memory of a loved one.



ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CATHOLIC CHURCH

649 Old Tellico Hwy N, Madisonville, TN 37354

Church: (423) 442-7273

Rector: (423) 420-1856 (for sacramental emergencies only)

 office@sjtwrcc.org  www.sjtwrcc.org

 St. Joseph the Worker

February 14, 2026, | The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastoral Staff

Pastor Rev. Dr. Julius Abuh frjabuh@gmail.com (personal)

Deacon Walter Stone Wjstone01@outlook.com

Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper Claudia Brazeau office@sjtwrcc.org

Office Assistant Jessie Fusaro assistant@sjtwrcc.org

Operations Manager Mary Beavers gee4949@aol.com

Hispanic Ministry Maria Leon/Joel Garcia

Director, Religious Education Tami Clowers

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) Ben Swiderek

Coordinator of Youth Ministry Daniela Aguilera

Director of Sacred Music Jodi Swiderek

Knights of Columbus Gerry Schlueter

Women's Group Tina Bolton

 **Baptism:** Preparation is required for parents who desire their child to be baptized. Parents must be registered with the church. Forms are available in the office.

 **Reconciliation:** Offered on Saturdays at 3:15 p.m., Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and 12 p.m. (Spanish) or upon request.

 **Pastoral Care of the Sick:** Notify the office for homebound or hospitalized to request a visit from Father Julius for either communion or anointing of the sick. In the event of death, Mass can be offered immediately or on a date convenient for the family.

 **Holy Matrimony:** Couples should contact the pastor a minimum of six months in advance. Dates may not be set prior to the second meeting with the priest. The Diocese requires couples to attend an *Engaged Encounter of Picture of Love Weekend*.

Stay connected and discover more about our parish life at www.sjtwrcc.org. Find Mass times, events, ministries, bulletins, and more!



Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (Spanish)

Weekdays: 9:00 a.m. – Tuesday- Friday

Adoration

Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Rosary

Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. (after Mass)

Thursday: 7:00 p.m. (in the Grotto)

Prayer for Divine Protection on Valentine's Day

St. Valentine, you endured martyrdom for the Christian faith with great courage.

Protect us from all dangers that threaten our spiritual growth and holiness. Shield our relationships from evil influences that separate us from Christ.

Grant us the spiritual strength to choose love rooted in divine mercy. May your example of perseverance inspire us to remain faithful to God.

Intercede for us that we may receive heavenly grace in all our undertakings.

~Amen

STEWARDSHIP

Week 32: February 1 & 7 - 8 2026

Attendance.....	532
Weekly Need for New Year.....	\$6,351
Proceeds	
Offertory.....	\$9,027
Online Offerings.....	\$4,210
Week+/-.....	+\$6,886
YTD +/-.....	+\$24,506
Capital-Expenses.....	\$100
Capital Building Fund.....	..\$330
Good Shepherd.....	\$232
Feed My Sheep.....	\$508
Family Life Center	
Collections.....	\$945
YTD.....	\$2,421,396
Total Pledged.....	\$2,186,670

We're grateful for your faithful stewardship and for your continued fulfillment of your pledges. May God Bless you in all ways for your generosity.

Online Giving: Tired of writing checks? Visit our web site to set up one-time and/or recurring donations. Click "Donate Now" for a dropdown selection of giving opportunities. Call the office if you want to designate a donation for a specific project. All donations are to be made payable to "St. Joseph the Worker, Madisonville, Tn.

Are you interested in investing in the future of our parish? A bequest in your Will could provide greater ministries for God's work in our parish. Please call the office for information.

WELCOME

We welcome our visitors with joyful hearts. If you are not registered and wish to join our faith community, please see an usher after Mass or contact the office.

About Us

First Gathering: Sept. 16, 1992;
Blessing of the Building: May 25, 2001;
Consecration of Altar & Church: Jan. 12, 2003.
Canonically Erected Parish: May 1, 2006,
(on the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker)

Mass Requests: We have openings for daily & weekend Mass requests. Have a Mass said for someone living or deceased. The Holy Mass is the best form of prayer. Call the office to request a Mass.

Coffee & Donuts are served after the 8 am and the 10am Masses on Sundays. At the 10am Mass, **on the fourth Sunday of the month, a pot-luck meal is served.**

Saturday 4pm Mass: : We are happy to report we have a new date for our first 5 o'clock social. It will be on March 7th after Mass. Come join us downstairs for some fellowship and refreshments.

The **Seven Sisters Apostolate** in our parish collectively pray every day for Fr. Julius, our pastor. Our Seven Sisters are: Jen, Ann, Kellyann, Denise, Ann, Patty & Grace. If interested in joining this apostolate, contact Tina Bolton 561-202-4760; check out the website SevenSistersApostolate.org to learn more.



Faith Formation & Enrichment

OCIA classes are held on Wednesdays, at 7:00 pm in the parish hall. Call the office for more details.

Bible Study: The Thursday evening Bible study class meets at 7:00 pm in the parish hall, we are studying the prophets.

Adoration: Please prayerfully consider signing up for Adoration on Fridays between 9:30 am and noon.

Pray the Rosary: Our Blessed Mother asks us to pray the rosary for world peace. Join us on Thursdays at the grotto (or in the church if weather requires).

All Readers at Mass: The 2026 Reader Workbooks are now available. Please check the mailboxes outside of the parish office for your book. It will have your name on it. (The Church year begins with the First Sunday in Advent, Nov. 30th).



Time and Talent

Help Serve Our Community: SJTW prepares/serves a free supper at First United Methodist Church every 7 weeks. Volunteers make side dishes and desserts at home and bring them to the church. Contact Jodi at (423) 404-2258.

We must continue to raise money for FLC! Our next financial goal is \$2.5M. We need everyone working to achieve that goal! Pledges, Naming Opportunities, attending fundraising events, all goes towards that goal. Join the FLC financial movement. Thank you for your support!

Have YOU Selected your Brick?



Purchase a brick to help pave our Family Life Center courtyard. Remember or Honor a loved one. Bricks are customizable. Check the Narthex to see options and grab an order form. Call the Office or Margaret Cummings with questions.

The **Welcome Committee** has a Welcome Table located in the Church Narthex for new parishioners to visit. Visitors to our Church are encouraged to sign our guest book.

The **Youth Group** meets on Wednesdays in Religious Ed Bldg. from 6-7 pm. All Confirmed youth are invited to attend. We are looking for young people who love God and want to make a difference in our Parish and community.

WOMEN'S GROUP

We will be playing Bunco (a fun & easy dice game) at the next Women's Group meeting on Saturday, MARCH 21 at 11am in the Parish Hall. Novice & seasoned Bunco players are welcome. Hope to see you there!

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

"The very sight of God causes delight. Hence he who sees God cannot be without delight."

~St Thomas Aquinas

"A person who is fundamentally honest doesn't need a code of ethics. The Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount are all the ethical code anybody needs."

~Harry S. Truman

"I have wondered at times what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the US Congress."

~ Ronald Reagan

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus are leading the first Lenten Stations of the Cross on Friday February 20th @ 6:00pm. Prior to the Stations of the Cross, the Knights will serve a meatless Soup and Sandwich dinner from 4:30 to 6:00pm. The cost will be \$10 for adults, and kids 12 or under are free. Please come out and have a hot meal then attend the Stations of the Cross with us! Contact Gerry Schlueter if you have any questions..

Ian McFadden

Has been a member of the SJTW Parish Council for nearly 2 years and has been responsible for the Education Ministry which includes the OCIA Program and all Religious Education programs offered by the Church. Ian, his wife Angela and daughter Kirsten joined SJTW in January of 2021 after relocating from Florida. They all are active in the Church. He participates in several initiatives: a Lector, Church communications, the FLC campaign, and the Knights of Columbus. Ian is excited about our growth and development and will continue to focus on developing religious educational opportunities for all Parishioners.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ASH Wednesday Mass Schedule:

9:00 AM in English
7:00 PM Bilingual

Spend Time in His Presence! We are seeking volunteers for Eucharistic Adoration every Friday between 9:30a-12:00p. If you feel called to spend time in prayer please contact: Dolores King: 980-829-8724. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex soon.

Jim Hull and Mike McGrath will have beautiful, hand-crafted rosaries available for sale after Masses on February 28th & March 1st.

Religious Education

(Please see the bulletin boards for more details)

FIRST HOLY RECONCILIATION:

When: Sunday, March 8, 2026
Time: 11:00 am – 12:00pm
Where: SJTW Catholic Church



Prayer Intentions

For God's Healing: Madeline Albach, Karen Burris, Howard Clarke, Mary Cornejo, Ron Cross, Russell Flynn, Barbara Hill, Bruce Mackenzie, Karen Ruggiero, Bill Swars, Patty Swatzell, Donald Synder, Dennis Wilson, Keith Feltz.

For Our Military: Nicholas Dickson, Matthew Fioravanti, Jacob Hill, Quinn Mackenzie, Sara Ruggiero, Chris St. Pierre, Seth Turpeinen

For Vocations: Lord, we pray for an abundance of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life, including those called to serve as religious sisters and brothers. May all who are called respond with generous hearts to build up Your Church.

Call the office to add someone to our prayer intentions.



Happy Birthday: Michael Capozzi, Karimeh Franco, Marai Garcia, Bradley Mancilla, Carole Sumner, Kevin Castro, Pedro Garcia, Gary Mortensen, Becky Buchberger, Conor McCracken, Gary Bishop, Jose Gomez, Marino Gomez, Marie Gosch, Antoinette Day, Julian Frutos, Michael Morgan

Happy Anniversary: Uver & Tanya Vaca, Ethan & Denishia Wolf

Sanctuary Candles: Donations are \$25 per candle, which burns for one week. The continuous flame symbolizes Christ's unending love and His constant presence and reminds the faithful their call to loving adoration in return.

Gala: **Don't miss out on our 1st Annual Gala!** Tables are starting to fill so make sure to get your reservations submitted early! Additional Reservation forms are available in the Narthex and can be downloaded on the Parish website under "Events & Announcements". We are gratefully accepting donations through March 1st—with only TWO weeks remaining, time is flying! You can hand in your completed forms and donations to a Donations Team member in the Narthex before each Mass. Additional Donation Forms are available in the Narthex, and on the Parish website under "Family Life Center Updates". SJTWDonate@gmail.com



Special Second Collection

National Collection for Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. On Ash Wednesday, February 18, a second collection will be taken up in support of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe that suffered so much under decades of harsh Soviet communist rule. Your donation will help with the training of seminarians and lay leaders, youth ministry, pastoral and catechetical centers, schools, church construction and renovation, and evangelization through Catholic media. Thank you for your generosity in support of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.