



Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Community

Catholic Church serving in Eastern Kentucky since 1913

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 25, 2026

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 8:23-9:3 / 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17 / Matthew 4:12-23 or 4:12-17



Eucharistic Services:

7:00 pm Wednesday - Word & Communion Service
5:00 pm Saturday - Holy Cross in Jackson, Vigil Mass
11:30 am Sunday - Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sunday after Mass; other times by appointment.

Office Hours: Wed - Friday 10 am to 5 pm

Ministers for next Sunday,

Sacramental Minister :

Lector :

Ministers at MGC

Lori Helfrich, Parish Life Director

email: lhelfrich@cdlex.org

Mother of Good Counsel Prayer by B.J. Ewen

Holy Mary, our heavenly mother,
keep us in your care.

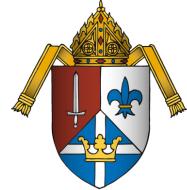
Give us your good counsel
as we strive to be disciples of your son Jesus
and help us to grow in faith and in our love for God.
Bless our parish which is named in your honor.
Help us in our lives as we humbly pray and help
us be attentive to the needs of our families and our
community. Amen

Roman Catholic Diocese of Lexington, KY

Bishop John Stowe, OFM
Conv.

1310 West Main Street
Lexington, KY 40508-2048

Phone: (859)253.1993
www.cdlex.org



CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF LEXINGTON

Parish Mission Statement

Inspired and sustained in our Catholic faith through life-giving worship, we Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Community, have as our mission to bring Christ and the teachings of the Catholic faith to one another and the larger community in a ways that draw us together as a supportive family, yet reaches out with a genuine concern for all people, so that we can be authentic witnesses in an area where Catholics are few in number.

329 Poplar Street, Hazard, KY 41701

Phone : (606)436.2533 | 606.233.3012 for emergency or after hours

Fax: (606) 436.0171 | www.mgcc.org



Good for Counsel

Becoming Catholic

Becoming Catholic will meet on Tuesday January 27 from 7-9 pm. Please pray for our candidates and catechumens.

End of year Donations Letters

Your year end donation statements for tax purposes will be ready in January. They will be emailed out unless you request a printed letter.

Welcome to the Catholic Church

Susan Combs entered into full communion with the Catholic Church on Thursday January 22. Please continue to pray for Susan, and her family as we celebrate as a parish our new member.



Catholic Diocese of Lexington

ONE IN CHRIST
2025 DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL



Annual Appeal

Thank you to those who have already donated. We have met our financial goal for the parish but we are still needing more of our members to participate in the annual appeal to meet our parish participation goal of 65%. We still need 5 others to participate to reach this goal. Please consider how you can help us reach this goal.



Year of Saint Francis (2026–2027)

To mark 800 years since the death of St. Francis of Assisi, the Church is celebrating a special Jubilee Year with the possibility of a plenary indulgence. It's not a shortcut to grace, but an invitation to conversion, mercy, and interior freedom—rooted in confession, the Eucharist, prayer, and detachment from sin.

This Jubilee calls us to move beyond celebration and truly live the Franciscan spirit: simplicity, charity, peace, and love for the poor. Visit the Vatican News website for more information. <https://shorturl.at/8fP6N>



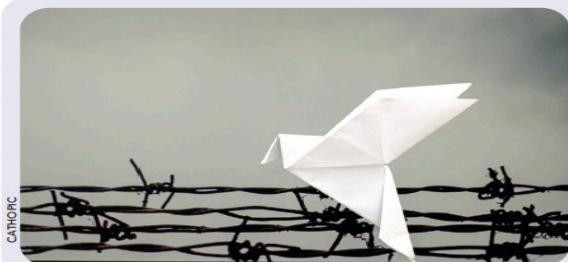
Interfaith, nonpartisan

**UNITED IN HOPE:
DENOUNCING POLITICAL VIOLENCE**

Keynote speaker
Gov. Andy Beshear

5:30 P.M. THURSDAY, JAN. 29
Historic St. Paul Catholic Church,
425 W. Short St.

Sponsored by Interfaith Alliance of the Bluegrass
and Lexington UNITED Interfaith Encounters and Dialogues.



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Dear brothers and sisters, all too much violence exists in the world and our societies. Amid wars, terrorism, human trafficking, and widespread aggression, our children and young people need to be able to experience the culture of life, dialogue, and mutual respect. Above all, they need the witness of...those who have suffered injustice and violence [and] resist the temptation to seek revenge.

ADDRESS TO THE "ARENA OF PEACE," ROME, MAY 30, 2025



Judged or Invited?

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2) is the message preached by Jesus after the arrest of John the Baptist. It is important to place this message in context. Jesus is not repeating the preaching of the Baptist. His message is unique and compelling.

Look closely at what Jesus is saying. Do not automatically fill in the blanks with the memories of every sermon you have heard. Try to hear Jesus' words again, for the first time. Is the emphasis on "repent," or is the emphasis on the announcement, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand"? Does it make any difference?

Repeat these words and change the emphasis each time. Play with the words. Let the words play with you. Notice how you respond. Notice what makes a difference. Notice how you react, and, most of all, notice whether you feel invited or you feel judged.

The Baptist made no bones about it. You are being judged: "Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees" (Matthew 3:10). Jesus, on the other hand, seems not to judge but to invite: "for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17).

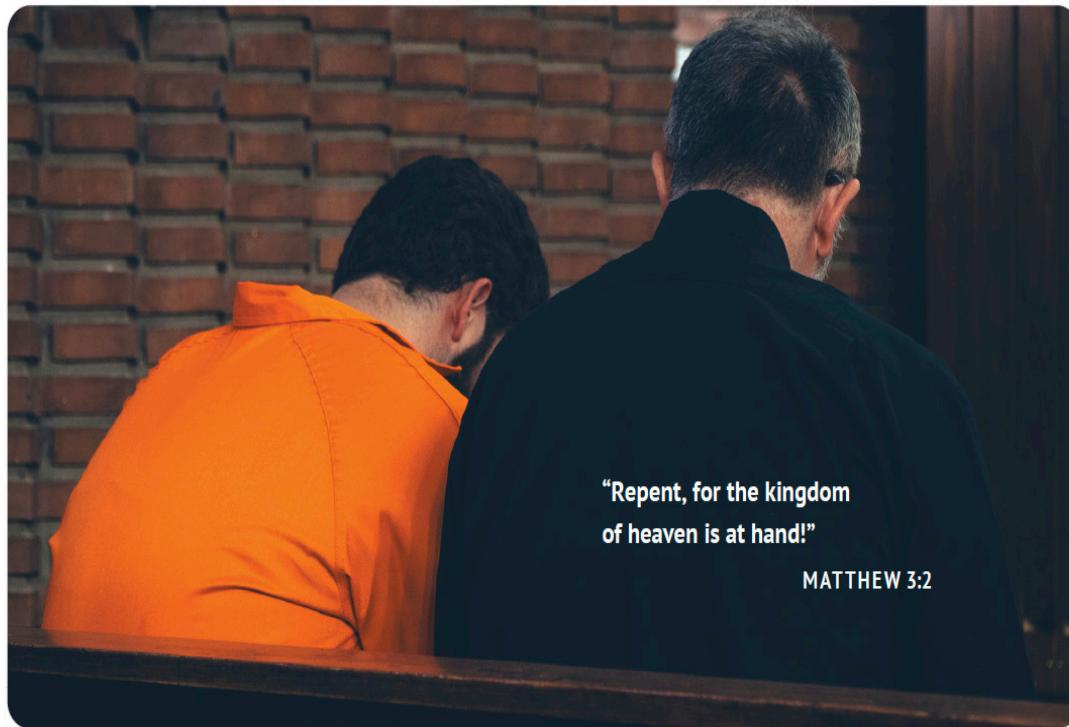
In the invitation, we are challenged to see in a different way. Use different skills. Refrain from automatic judgments. Seek to understand but, most of all, to accept and to love. ●

Reflect

What does "repent" mean to me?
A threat or an invitation?



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY



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Readings for the Week

Monday
January 26
Sts. Timothy and
Titus, Bishops
2 Tm 1:1-8 or
Ti 1:1-5
Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday
January 27
Weekday
2 Sm 6:12b-15,
17-19
Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday
January 28
St. Thomas
Aquinas, Priest
and Doctor of
the Church
2 Sm 7:4-17
Mk 4:1-20

Thursday
January 29
Weekday
2 Sm 7:18-19,
24-29
Mk 4:21-25

Friday
January 30
Weekday
2 Sm 11:1-4a,
5-10a, 13-17
Mk 4:26-34

Saturday
January 31
St. John Bosco,
Priest
2 Sm 12:1-7a,
10-17
Mk 4:35-41

Sunday
February 1
Fourth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Zep 2:3; 3:12-13
1 Cor 1:26-31
Mt 5:1-12a



Dear Padre,

Why can't a Protestant receive the Eucharist at a Catholic Mass?

United by baptism, fellow Christians are our brothers and sisters in the Lord. As such, they are always welcome at Catholic Mass, but they do not ordinarily participate in holy Communion. "Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to holy Communion" (Code of Canon Law, 844 §4).

When Catholics receive Holy Communion, they firmly believe the bread and wine are transformed into the Real Presence of Christ. In the Eucharist, we become part of the body of Christ and share in holiness and unity with one another. Our "Amen" to "The Body of Christ" and "The Blood of Christ" means, "Truly, so be it!" It indicates that we affirm our belief in this mystery, which is fundamental to our Catholic identity. If non-Catholics receive the Eucharist but do not embrace this identity and same belief, it may disrespect Catholics who do, as well as disrespect their own identity in the denomination to which they belong.

However, at Mass, fellow Christians can join their prayers with Catholics in praising God. Together, we also pray that the divisions which separate us will finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (John 17:21). ●



CARLOS PACHE / CATHOLIC

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



Our Weekly Offering

Birthdays

1/30 : JP Neri & Samantha Glaser

Pope's Prayer Intention

January

For prayer with the Word of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.



Stay Connected to MGC on Social Media



Mother of Good Counsel



Mother of Good Counsel

Prayer List

Joey Napier, John Meehan, Roy Varghese, Brian Campbell, Matt Tuttle, Willie Gomez, Joe Fehribach, Charles McDaniel, Jon Latunik, Deb Night, Harvey Richardson, Delois McIntosh, Karen Davis, Zachary Hollan, Deedee Wells, Sherrian & Amose Noble, Stephanie Welch, David Napier, Martha Huggins, Roger Noyes, Willow Brockman, Tina Dawhare Fileds, Mark Fields, Valarie Maggard Dye, Merlene Combs, Robert Cladwell, The Rice family, Neal Boggs, Jackson Varela, Julie & Jonah Spencer, Jace Combs, Mandi Dishener, Michael Witaker, Thomas Stidham, Roy Pulliam, Quentin Davis, Nancy Kelly, Bobby Muncy, Grayson & Kaitlin Baker, Church Brunt, Al Pratt, Joe Vogel, Sr. Margie Fiels, Kazmir Sparkman, Dana Roy, Cordis Bishop, Randy Damron, Myla Atienza, Helen Brunt, Michael Deaton, Ronnie Hurt, Sandy & Phillip Craft, Donnie & Judy Combs, Jaranda Brunt, Gail Baker, and Abby Turk

If you know of someone who needs a pastoral visit or is in the hospital and would appreciate a visit contact the parish and let Lori know about the request.

Prayer Family

Shane, Susan & Alex Combs