

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 Holy Spirit

“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.” (John 3:8) As the Bible tells us this is an apt description of how the Holy Spirit acts within us. What is the Holy Spirit? It’s easy to think of the Holy Spirit as a powerful force from God. Or a mysterious aspect of God’s life. The proper question is not “what” but “Who.” “Who is the Holy Spirit” is the right question because the Holy Spirit is a Person. A divine Person. Equal in dignity and majesty with the Father and the Son. It’s important to point out that the age we are in now, the age after the life, death, resurrection and ascension of the Son, is the age of the Holy Spirit! This is the time when the Holy Spirit is especially active in our world and in the Church. When we deliberately seek to be open to the Holy Spirit’s promptings, amazing things can happen within us and in offering of self to others. The most obvious way the Spirit prompts us is through one of the many gifts which are available to us: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of God. The seven gifts are an endowment to which every baptized Christian can lay claim from his earliest childhood. They enable us to glorify God. These gifts, given in the sacraments for us to develop through experience, are indispensable to the successful conduct of the Christian way of life. They do not appear spontaneously and out of nowhere but emerge gradually as the fruit of virtuous living. Nor are they withdrawn by the Spirit once they are no longer needed, for they are perpetually needed as long as we are fighting the good fight.

These gifts enable us to be sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and to respond courageously. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church (para. 1831) notes, the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit “complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them.” Infused with His gifts, we respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as if by instinct, the way Christ Himself would. We can know and love the Holy Spirit just as we know and love the Father and the Son.

Soil of Our Souls by Deacon Leon Dodd

It is that time of year again where we are inspired to plant: digging up the good earth, replenishing the soil, and planting seeds, flowers, or vegetables like tomatoes. I like early spring and most especially right after Holy Week. By then, it is getting warm in East Tennessee, and my focus turns towards gardening and various other outdoor activities.

This year: I plan to plant tomatoes, bell peppers, okra [Ellen Marie does not know about the okra yet] and potatoes. Two years ago, I grew many potatoes and came out with about 10-15 lbs. in the Fall. Like most gardeners, I give away food weekly, especially when the tomatoes are becoming ripe by the handful. I promise to bring them to church!



I got my love for gardening, tomatoes, and flowers from my Mama, who raised six girls and three boys. I was the one of the kids that would go out and help with the planting; and most particularly, the weeding and watering during the hot summer days.

Likewise, our Church, moves through different cycles and reminds us of God's love joyfully during Advent and Jesus' birth, and Lent where we fast and pray and do works of mercies. We move on from Lent to Easter Triduum: where we remember our Lords crucifixion, death, and celebrate His resurrection. Our Lord Jesus Christ, died for us, for our salvation and Eternal Life with Him; and I encourage you to pray we all remain

eternally grateful for all that He has done for us.

Springtime will move into summer, where you must keep a close eye on watering and weeding your plants and flowers to enjoy the 30/60/90 yield that Jesus describes in various Gospel accounts. Perhaps our Lord also wants us to remember that He is the Master Gardener who is constantly replenishing the “soil” of our “souls” and to prepare us for harvest: life eternal in the Kingdom.

Perhaps we can reflect back to Lent on the things we chose to give up or take on and ask are we keeping the bad habits (weeds) in check and nurturing good habits (prayer, fasting, and almsgiving)? Perhaps we can continue our yearlong FASTING by having “blackouts” (time away) from our phone, videos, and social media. As kids, our social media was OUTDOORS after we ate breakfast, where we went to play, skip lunch and it took a firm call (whistle from my dad) to come in for supper – or not eat!

As we experience new beginnings, let us not forget the many good deeds of those who have gone before us and how much they have given over the years and liturgical seasons in our homes and to OLOF. Many who have gone before us LIVED the message of Love of God [LOG] and Love of Neighbor [LON]. The summation of the Prophets and Golden Rule. Let us enjoy our Spring and Summer and be grateful for Life’s many challenges; and to remember to trust the Master Gardner. He is there for all the seasons in our lives and is present in all our Sacraments. Thank you God!

The Helping Hand

- Formed: The Art of Living with Dr. Edward Sri: The 4 Cardinal Virtues (6 sessions)
 Living Faith with Fr. Columba Jordan, CFR (6 sessions)
 Kids: St. Dominic’s Holy Family: The Cooperator Brothers (4 Episodes)
 Laugh and Grow Bible for Kids
 God’s Princesses
- Books: Living the Little Way by Fr. Joseph Spence
 Pocket Guide to Mass with Fr. Mike Schmitz and Dr. Edward Sri
 The Complete Stories by Flanery O’Connor



Chrism Mass



Holy Thursday



Chapel of Repose and Compline



Living Stations of the Cross



Passion and Veneration of the Cross



Holy Saturday Easter Vigil



Easter Sunday



First Holy Communion



OLOF CCW Golden Rose Knoxville Deanery Recipient



2026 CCW Scholarship Recipients



God is always with us. He lives in us through our Baptism and all of the sacraments. He is with us in the Mystical Body of Christ, our Church & Christian Community.

We welcome and encourage you to come to encounter God's mercy and love in yet another special way, through the Healing Ministry. Though not a sacrament, the Healing Ministry provides God's special graces and often relief from many of our ills. Here are some examples individuals have shared who came for healing:

A woman came for the healing of her terrible, chronic neck pain for which she received serious surgery. After prayer she joyfully reports that she experienced the deep love of the Lord as she was prayed over. Moreover, she is now free of pain and has also been relieved of PTSD with which she also suffered.

Another person came for prayer after having 2 CAT scans that indicated suspicious spots on her liver & colon. After she was prayed over, she had a procedure to look at these areas. Nothing of concern was found there.

Others have come having had various tests and scans indicating serious illnesses. After they were prayed over, they had more testing to verify the conditions, and the results came back negative. They were found to be completely well!. In other cases, test results were repeated and came back with results that were less serious than originally thought.

There have been numerous cases in which acute and chronic pain in necks, throats, backs, feet, and hands have been healed or alleviated. Those who don't appear to be healed of physical ailments have left with renewed strength to persevere. They often leave with the gift of peace. Many people have also come to be prayed over for emotional issues like anxiety and depression. They have experienced relief, peace, and joy. Some come because they feel spiritual malaise and want to draw closer to the Lord. They leave renewed and strengthened, ready to begin their spiritual journey anew.

Please come to experience God's grace through healing prayer or bring someone who is suffering. If you are so ill you cannot come to the church, we are happy to arrange a meeting elsewhere. We don't always know exactly how God will heal, but we do know that He is present and lovingly provides the healing that we need in His wisdom, His way, and His time.

Saint of the Month by Marvin Sellers

St. Athanasius' feast day is celebrated on May 2nd, honoring him as a bishop, theologian, and "Father of Orthodoxy." He was born around 296-298 In Alexandria, Egypt, to a Christian family. The bishop



Alexander of Alexandria became a strong influence in Athanasius' life after he witnessed him playing at administering baptism as a young boy with other children. The Bishop questioning them, determined the baptisms were valid and decided to train them for priesthood. Over time Athanasius befriended many monks and hermits of the desert, including St. Anthony. He was educated in Christian doctrine, Greek literature, philosophy, rhetoric, and law. He became an ordained deacon in 318 and the bishop of Alexandria in 328, serving in this position until his death in 373. Athanasius is best known for his defense of the divinity of Jesus Christ against the heresy of Arianism, which taught that Jesus was created by God and not co-eternal with the Father. During the Nicene Council, he defended the Nicene Creed, affirming that Jesus is begotten, not made and one in being with the Father. He faced repeated exiles and political opposition, but remained steadfast in the faith. His writings include: the life of Saint Anthony, on the incarnation, and the four orations against the Arians, which remain important in Christian theology. He is a doctor of the church, a title given to saints whose writings have greatly influenced the church. He is the patron saint of theologians for his defense of orthodox doctrine and clarity in teaching; and teachers of the faith, for his role in preserving Christian doctrine. Over the course of his life, Athanasius was banished 5 times and spent 17 years in exile for defense of the doctrines of Christ's divinity; however, the last years of his life were peaceful and he died on May 2, 373 in Alexandria. His burial site is the monastery of Athanasius in the Nitrian Desert, Egypt. St. Athanasius is venerated by both the Catholic and Orthodox Churches, making his feast day a day of celebration of Christian unity in truth.

Homeschooling and Immaculate Heart of Mary Hybrid by Rebecca Tolson

I grew up in a very active homeschool community in Western NC and always knew I wanted my children to have the opportunity I did. My family participated in a variety of homeschool co-ops, groups, and classes. Three years ago my husband and I moved back to Maryville with our two young children. After the move I began looking for opportunities to connect with other homeschool families as our children drew closer to school age. I desired community as I began my journey as a homeschool mom.

We chose to join the new hybrid homeschool, Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM), that was starting in Fall 2024 at Our Lady of Fatima. It has been a wonderful entry for me into homeschooling. We meet Monday and Thursday on campus and then spend the other days doing school at home. It is the perfect blend for my children to be in a classroom setting among children their age, but also have days at home that we can structure as a family. In addition to my children being a part of the school, I have been given the opportunity to teach 3rd grade the last two years at IHM. This has allowed me to learn even more about the homeschool curriculum and prepare for the level of learning my own children will be offered in a few years.

As a new homeschool parent, I like that IHM provides a syllabus for every day of the week including at home days. It keeps us accountable

and on track while also having flexibility in how and when lessons are completed. My kids have had the opportunity to participate in field trips, science days, and service projects with their classmates. Favorite field trips have included Ripley's Aquarium, pumpkin patch, ice skating, museums, and more. As a school we pray the Angelus in the Chapel and attend Mass weekly at OLOF. The Catholic faith is integrated into the school days both on campus and at home. Immaculate Heart of Mary Hybrid is one option for homeschooling in our area. We have over 50 students from 7 different parishes in the diocese and this Fall it is estimated we will have more than 8 students in grades PreK-12th. There are other formats and groups available as well to provide academics, enrichment, and fellowship for homeschoolers of all ages. As primary educators of our children, homeschooling and being a part of IHM gives us the ability to know what our children are learning while having the support of others in the education of our children. Homeschooling definitely has its ups and downs! A wonderful benefit has been the time to do things during the week like park play dates, strawberry picking, ninja classes, as well as slowing down, reading outside and allowing my boys to explore and be kids! It also allows us to have more time as a family which is an amazing gift.