



# The Catholic Center

Serving the Athens and University of Georgia  
Communities Since 1952.



## ALL ARE WELCOME

### Mass Intentions

- Saturday**  
5PM - Monika & Bernd Hermeyer
- Sunday**  
8AM—Dorothy Fischer † & All CC Members  
10:30AM— Peter Trentacoste Jr. & Felicia Trentacoste †  
12:30PM—Dana Pothier†  
5PM— Mark Patronilha †
- Monday**  
5:30PM—James A. Teofilo †
- Tuesday**  
5:30PM— William Rice †
- Wednesday**  
5:30PM - Hope Brown †
- Thursday**  
5:30PM- Jay Haney †
- Friday**  
8:00AM - Cherie Frankson

### Lenten Mission

The Catholic Center is proud to be hosting our very own Lenten Mission with Fr. Radmar Jao, S.J. entitled **Come to the Water: Renewing Our Personal Encounter with Jesus.**

This three-day (**February 20– 22**) mission invites us to renew our personal encounter with Jesus by reflecting on our baptism—an encounter that opens our eyes to see the world, one another, and even ourselves in a new way as God’s beloved daughters and sons, belonging to a larger community of disciples called to joyful service.

More information can be found in next week’s bulletin or on our Facebook!

### Office

**Hours:** Mon – Fri: 10AM-4PM  
**Fax:** 706-543-2541

**Address:** 1344 South Lumpkin St. Athens, GA 30605  
**Connect:** www.ugacatholic.org  
CC at UGA  
@CatholicDawgs

**Phone:** 706-543-2293



### Liturgical Schedule

**Mass:** Saturday: 5PM Mass  
Sunday: 8AM, 10:30AM, 12:30PM, & 5PM

**Adoration:** Monday–Thursday: 9AM–10AM

**Confession:** Wednesday: 4:00PM-5:00PM  
Saturday: 3:30PM-4:30PM  
\*Confession will be in the Center Office

Monday - Thursday: 5:30 PM  
Friday: 8AM Mass

February 8, 2026 • The Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

### Weekly Calendar

- Sunday 2/8**  
8:00AM Mass  
10:30AM Mass  
10:30AM Religious Education  
12:30PM Mass  
2:00PM Catholic Social Teaching  
3:00PM OCIA  
5:00PM Mass  
5:00PM OCIA Rite for Entrance into the Catechumenate  
6:00PM Student Dinner  
7:15pm Senioritis
- Monday 2/9**  
10:30AM Men’s Bible Study  
5:30PM Mass

- Tuesday 2/10**  
12:00PM Silver Angels  
5:30PM Mass  
8:00PM Seeking Water

- Wednesday 2/11**  
12:00PM Staff Meeting  
4:00PM Reconciliation  
5:30PM Mass  
6:15PM Religious Education  
8:00PM Ignite

- Thursday 2/12**  
10:00AM Women’s Bible Study  
5:30PM Mass  
6:00PM Women’s Dinner  
6:30PM Choir Rehearsal

- Friday 2/13**  
8:00AM Mass  
2:00PM 5K Human Race Bib/T-Shirt Pickup  
7:00PM CSA Men Cook for Women

- Saturday 2/14**  
48th Annual 5k Human Race

### A Message from Fr. Michael

*Share your bread ... shelter the oppressed ... clothe the naked ... Then your light shall break forth like the dawn - Is 58*  
*You are the light of the world - Mt 5*  
*The just one is a light in the darkness - Ps 112*

Many of y'all know that Pope Leo XIV recently declared another jubilee year - this time on St. Francis: it is the 800th year of his death. Perhaps one of St. Francis' most famous prayers "Prayer of St. Francis" (aka make me a channel of Your peace) might not actually be attributed to him, but certainly sums up his life wonderfully. It is profound for many reasons, but in particular: the entire prayer turns the pursuit of happiness on its head.

"It is in self-forgetting that one is found ... in dying that one awakens to eternal life" are just a few examples. But more specifically: "it is in giving that we receive." Especially in the pursuit of happiness, this phrase becomes important to understand what it is a person actually receives when they make of themselves a gift. It is not saying that when we love others to expect to receive thanksgiving from them, nor is it saying that seeing the happiness on the person's face is what will make us happy - that would just reduce love into transactional coldness if I give expecting something in return, and it would not be true happiness if my happiness is dependent upon another's. In today's second reading, Paul begins to point us in the correct direction of true happiness: "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." (1 Cor)

One such story in St. Francis' life, early in his own intentional Christian journey, there was a threshold of deeper love God was inviting him to pass through: to love a leper. Lepers used to scare and disgust St. Francis. He says, "When I was in sin, the sight of lepers nauseated me beyond measure" (Testament, St. Francis). There was a blossoming realization in St. Francis that maybe he was simply disgusted with himself. But as he began to grow closer to God, only that movement allowed him to do the unthinkable: one such meeting with a leper, St. Francis did not simply give the leper money, St. Francis kissed the leper on his head. When St. Francis left and looked back, the leper was nowhere to be found, and he realized that he had kissed Jesus, Who was in solidarity with the leper. This would turn into one of the main ministries of the early Franciscans, to care for lepers.

But it enlightens us to true happiness. St. Francis would later in his life bear the marks of love: the stigmata. Where he participates in the Love of God for the world by bearing Jesus' wounds. What we see here is that more important than the gesture or act of gift, is the simple presence of the other, or more profoundly: the union of one person with another. So, when we give to others we receive nothing less than God Himself. One of the most crucial passages will be this year's Christ the King, from Matthew 25, where Jesus sets up a parable of the judgment: those who cared, those who did not. The parable hinges upon Jesus' union with the poor, "What you did to the least of My brethren, you did for Me." (Mt 25)

So, anytime someone makes of themselves a gift, the reception is God. When St. Francis gave himself to God in confession to be forgiven, he received God. When St. Francis gave himself to the leper, he received God. When St. Francis gave himself to God, he received God. To make it a little bit more accurate: "It is in giving that we receive [God]."

## Announcements

### Archbishop's Annual Appeal

We are incredibly grateful to all our members who have already joined together in pledging their gift to the 2026 Archbishop's Annual Appeal. The campaign goal is \$11,740,000 and our Catholic Center goal is \$89,900. A percentage of the money collected above our goal will be returned to the CC!  
To learn more about the impact of your support of the appeal and to donate online, visit [lifeofthechurch.com/donate](http://lifeofthechurch.com/donate).

### Silver Angels Meet February 10th

The Silver Angels will meet on Tuesday, February 10th, at 12PM in the Center Hall. All those 60 and older (and young at heart) are invited for lunch, fellowship and fun.

### Social Graces Dinner on 2/12

The Social Graces Women's Dinner will be on Thursday, February 12th. It will be wonderful to catch up with old and new friends. Please rsvp by Monday at 5PM. For more information, contact the CC office.

### Exodus 40: A Men's Lent Program

Men, it's time to take up a challenge this Lent. Exodus 40 is a journey of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that will take you deeper into Lent than you've probably gone before. For 40 days, we will join Christ in the desert. We will leave behind the comforts and distractions of the world, the flesh, and the devil. And find healing freedom in God, who is our healer. We're creating an Exodus 40 group here at the Catholic Center this Lent. If you are interested in doing Exodus 40 this Lent or want to learn more about it, please text or call Jordan Watwood: 706-836-0495.

### Job Openings

The Catholic Center is seeking a part-time (15 – 20 hours a week) Facilities & Maintenance Coordinator to oversee the maintenance, safety, and functionality of our facilities and grounds. This is an ideal position for a hands-on, detail-oriented professional with experience in facilities management. If you know of anyone who might be a good fit, such as, for example, a retired contractor, property manager, home inspector, repair technician, or building superintendent, please encourage them to visit our website to read more about the position and follow up with [operations@ccatuga.org](mailto:operations@ccatuga.org). The job description is posted on the Catholic Center website under "Job Openings".

### Second Collection

The Black and Indian Mission second collection exists to help diocesan communities to build the church and preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American, Native American and Alaska Native people of God. Every year, it is the amazing generosity of the Catholic faithful who enable the Black and Indian Mission Office to support parish life and catechists; empowering evangelizers and encouraging vocations.

### 5K Human Race THIS Saturday

Our Annual 5K Human Race is this Saturday, February 14th at Oconee Veterans Park.

Those who have already registered are encouraged to pick up their race bib's and tee-shirts this Friday from 2-5pm. If you have not yet signed up there is still time to do so. Fill out a form in the back of the chapel or visit our website for more information.

### Feed My Starving Children

The Catholic Center is again sponsoring the Athens Feed My Starving Children Event which will be held May 15th – 17th in Stegeman Coliseum. This is an important year as we grow to two tractor/trailers and pack 255,000 meals so we'll need lots of help to reach our donation goal of \$114,000 and volunteer goal of 1,375.

We currently have \$40,984 toward our funding goal and have just opened up our event website for volunteer registrations. Please note that if you receive a separate request for donations directly from Feed My Starving Children, any donations sent directly to them will go into their general fund and not be credited to our event.

Please go to: [give.fmssc.org/athens](http://give.fmssc.org/athens) to donate and register to volunteer and help us feed more children!

Please contact Tom Spencer at [tspencer44@gmail.com](mailto:tspencer44@gmail.com); 706-340-3785 with questions.

### Pope Leo XIV Corner

"...[D]ear brothers and sisters, the Beatitudes become for us a measure of happiness, leading us to ask whether we consider it an achievement to be bought or a gift to be shared; whether we place it in objects that are consumed or in relationships that accompany us." (From Pope Leo's *Angelus* on February 1st)

To view the entire message, go to The Holy See website at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va).

## We Lift Up in Prayer

Charlotte & Joel Alesi Timothy A. Almy Judy Balcomb Megan Barton Erin Benbry Peter Bryan Grace Burger Grace Byrne Joanne Cabrera Jeanette Campbell Lucille Carberry Elizabeth Bertrand Carlson Mollie Carow Deana Dietzler Chiusano Lora Bernstein Cooley Elizabeth Cromer Patti D'Avella Tony DiPietro	Barton Elizabeth Dooling Claire Fetch Pam Forker Luke Frankson Hersina Gomes Jean Griffith Cheri Griggs Bob Henry Albert Hromalik, Sr. Ryan Hughes Ann Hunt Daniel Inman Kelly Jordan Milton Jordan Peter Kalla Victor Kalla Sarah Kurtz Dan Lackey	Gene Larkin Lynn Langston Patti Law Debbie Long Elena Lyons Rick Madera Gina Maherka Daniel Matonak Christian Matonak Carol Mazurek Amy McConnell Marlynne McCullough Scott Melina Bénédicte Milward Dorothy Moore Michael Olmert Dan Perrine Mary Pinto	Ed Powell David & Maura Randol Annette Richt Bryan Rieken Sophia Rodriguez Ariel Ross Amy Scobey Suzette Scobey Deborah Scott Christopher Shade Cindy Shapland Sr. Maria Suzanna Alyssa Thomas Nile Thomson Natalie Vaughn Patsy Vickery James Waring Mike Wasko
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With deepest sympathy, our community prays for the souls of the faithful departed and for their loved ones, especially Wes Newcomb.

### The Pope's Prayer Intention for February

For children with incurable diseases: Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

## Financial Giving Updates

Thank you so much for your generous contributions to our offertory throughout the year. Your support of the Catholic Center and our ministries is heartwarming. Thank you for sharing your time, treasure, and talent.

### January 25, 2025

\$10,180.00 - Offertory  
\$17,788.76 - Donation  
\$186.00 - Alms

### February 1, 2025

\$12,769.00 - Offertory  
\$ 1,168.00 - Donation  
\$9,691.00 - Alms

## Clergy & Staff

### Director

Fr. Brian McNavish  
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Giao Nguyen

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