



DIOCESE OF KNOXVILLE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

March 13, 2026

Parishioners of St. Elizabeth Church
510 West C Street
Elizabethton, TN 37644

Dear parishioners of St. Elizabeth Church,

It was a joy for me to be present with you for your Confirmation Mass recently! I value your church community and your witness to our Catholic faith in East Tennessee!

I am aware that there have been some concerns raised regarding ministry within your parish. I have heard these concerns and have been working with my vicars in determining the best route forward in addressing these concerns in a way that is most beneficial to all persons.

In order to provide a forum for all voices to be heard within the parish community, Fr. Pete Iorio (Vicar General) and Fr. Michael Cummins (Vicar for Priests) will be leading a listening session at St. Elizabeth Church on **Thursday, April 23rd beginning at 6:00 p.m.** All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend this session in order to share their thoughts and perspective on parish life at St. Elizabeth's.

To listen in faith is a truly important gift we can give another person as it is, in essence, a giving of oneself. To speak in truth and charity and to listen in faith builds up and strengthens the Church.

Please know that as your bishop, I keep your parish community in my prayers as I also pray for all of our priests and our entire Catholic Church spread throughout East Tennessee.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Mark Beckman
Bishop of Knoxville