Welcome New Students!

Upon arriving at Vanderbilt my freshman year, I knew there was a Catholic student organization on campus, but had no idea it would become my family and absolutely one of the most joyful parts of my college career. I can’t wait for you to experience the love and fun of UCat as well!

To help you get to know us, UCat hosts a wide variety of events the first weeks of school. Check out the calendar inside for all the details. There are a few activities to especially note:

Saturday, August 16: Move-in Mass is at 8 pm in Benton Chapel. This is the only break in the orientation schedule for Mass, so we look forward to seeing you and your family.

Sunday, August 24: The first “regular” Sunday of the semester, we are having ice cream sundaes after the usual 9 pm Mass. UCat ministries & social opportunities will be on display.

October 24-26: Our amazing once-a-semester retreat, Nashville Awakening. Don’t miss it!

In addition to a fantastic social community, UCat offers the chance to grow in our Catholic faith through service projects, Bible studies, faith formation programs, and most importantly, the Sacraments. Sunday Mass at 9 pm is the best way to stay connected to the faith and plugged in to the UCat community.

Our UCat home—and the location of many of our events—is the Frassati House, next to Vanderbilt’s Terrace parking garage. The Frassati House is open 24/7 and has a beautiful chapel, a well-stocked kitchen, and some of the most comfortable couches in Nashville. A great place to pray, study, eat and hang out, it will definitely be your “home away from home” for the next four years!

Keep an eye out for UCat on move-in day! We’ll have cold lemonade and a slice of watermelon ready for you. And please help spread the word to your friends and roommates that everyone is welcome at our events. Along with the rest of UCat’s Student Board, be assured of my prayers for you.

In Christ,

Elise Dirkes-Jacks, University Catholic Student President
Senior Education & Psychology Major, Chicago
Meet the UCat Ministry Team

Fr. John Sims Baker, Chaplain, is a graduate of Vanderbilt School of Law and a convert. He is an energetic, faithful priest who loves sharing the Good News and the Sacraments with young people.

Caroline Duffy, Director of Campus Ministry, is the organizer behind University Catholic — planning all events, mission trips, service project and faith formation programs as well as overseeing the student board.

FOCUS Missionaries (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). As recent college graduates, FOCUS missionaries literally meet students where they are and draw them into closer relationships with Christ. They lead small group Bible studies, offer personal mentorship, and help to build the University Catholic community. Pictured above, from left is Samantha Drapac, Jess Lauer, Abigail & Tim Thomas, and ________.

UCat students find a home away from home at University Catholic, along with life-long friendships. Pictured are last year’s Student Board.
Saturday, 8/16
Move-In Day. 7 am–noon. The Commons. Welcome Freshman. Look for us with the University Catholic stickers or find our tent for watermelon and lemonade.

Move-In Mass. 8 pm. Benton Chapel on Vanderbilt’s Campus. This is the only Mass time the first-year/freshman orientation schedule allows, so be sure to join us. Families welcome.

Sunday, 8/17
Mass. 9 pm. Benton Chapel. This is the regular Sunday Mass time. Adoration & Confession begin at 7:30 pm.

Tuesday, 8/19
S’mores n’ More. 10 pm. Highland Quad. Stop by to roast marshmallows on the open fire and meet UCat students!

Thursday, 8/21
Game Night. 9:30 pm. University Catholic’s Frassati House (2004 Terrace Place). Join us for a round of poker, spoons, Catchphrase, great snacks & more!

Friday, 8/22
Meal Plan Dinner and Show. 5 pm. Moe’s Southwest Grill (West End Ave). Afterwards, we’ll walk over to Langford Auditorium to watch fellow classmates perform at the annual Spotlight Showcase.

Saturday, 8/23
Swing Dancing! 7 pm. Centennial Park. While the Class of 2018 parties at the Frist, upper-classmen will dance the night away in the pavilion behind the Parthenon. Meet in front of Branscomb (Vandy van stop) at 7 pm. No skill necessary.

Sunday, 8/24
- Christian Ministry BBQ. 1 pm. Wyatt Steps. Free food, games & opportunities to meet lots of great folks.
- Sunday Supper. 6 pm. Frassati House. Get a free home-cooked meal & make some great friends.
- Mass. 9 pm. Benton Chapel. After mass we’ll enjoy free ice cream sundaes.

Monday, 8/25
Come by THE WALL outside the Commons Center & Rand to sign up for Bible studies, intramurals & more.

Tuesday, 8/26
Soccer with the Sisters. __ pm. Commons lower quad (in front of Hank & Stambaugh House). Join some fierce but friendly competition with the Dominican Sisters.

Wednesday, 8/27
Mass & Meal Plan. 5:30 pm. Cathedral of the Incarnation (2015 West End) Join us for Mass then meet at Frassati House (behind the Cathedral) to walk together to Noshville Deli for dinner (Commodore Card).

Thursday, 8/28
Catholic Culture Movie Night. 8 pm. Cohen. Take a break and enjoy a Catholic-inspired movie.

Saturday, 8/30
Alley Party & Concert. 9 pm. Alley between Frassati House & Cathedral of Incarnation. Fr. Kevin McGoldrick is an acclaimed musician, covering rock and blues genres.?????????????
Beyond Roman Rush, lots of ways to nurture your faith & to get involved ...

Sunday Supper: 6 pm at UCat’s Frassati House. Enjoy good food (free!) and great fellowship. Join us August 24 at 6 pm for our first Sunday Supper of the year and each Sunday thereafter.

Twilight Retreat: Friday, 9/5 from 7–11 pm at Frassati House. Jumpstart your college career with a mini retreat for freshman and transfer students.

Slumber Party (girls only): Friday, 9/19 9 pm—11 am at Frassati House.


Bible Studies: Join our FOCUS missionaries and other students in learning Christ’s teachings from Scripture and how to practically apply them to everyday college life. For more details, contact Tim at timothy.thomas@focus.org

ENDOW (Educating on the Nature & Dignity of Women) promotes the New Feminism, as defined by St. John Paul, which affirms the “true genius of women” and calls for an authentic feminine presence in every aspect of life and society. Enjoy some powerful girl talk! Contact carolineduffy@vanderbiltcatholic.org

Oratory (for guys): Tuesdays at 6:30 pm at Frassati House. Led by Fr. Baker, guys pray together & challenge each other in living the faith.

Praise & Worship: Wednesdays at 9 pm at Frassati House Chapel. This is Music City, so of course we lift our voices to praise the Lord. Join us. Confession available.

The Faith Explained

Learn more about what Catholics believe and why. This is a great opportunity, one to everybody — including anyone who has not yet been Confirmed and non-Catholics interested in learning more about the Catholic faith.

Awakening: October 24-26. A three-day retreat that will change your life! Led by students, it offers fun, fellowship and a wake-up call to God’s goodness! THE best weekend of your college career.

Flannery O’Connor Group

First Christian Classics

Family Weekend

Sunday Mass @ 11:30 am @ Benton Chapel
Followed by BBQ Lunch Join Us! 9/14