



## MAY 5, 2024 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH  
7717 RIVER ROAD - TOWNSEND, TN 37882  
865 - 448 - 6070

WEBSITE: STFRANCISTOWNSEND.ORG  
E-MAIL: STFRANCISTOWNSEND7717@GMAIL.COM

### MASS & CONFESSION SCHEDULE

**HOLY MASS:** Saturday – Vigil Mass - 4:00PM  
Sunday – 9:00AM

**DAILY MASS:** MON, TU, TH & FRI - 8:30AM  
(NO MASS ON WEDNESDAYS)  
*Check bulletin/website for changes*

**CONFESSION:** Saturday before Mass:  
3:00 - 3:40 (Church confessional)  
Sunday Before Mass:  
8:15 - 8:40 (Church confessional)  
Confessions may also be scheduled  
by calling the parish office for an  
appointment.

**HOLY DAYS:** Check bulletin or website

The Rosary is prayed 35 minutes before each Weekend Mass

### PARISH MINISTRY TEAM

**PASTOR:** Rev. Antonio Giraldo  
**DEACON:** Deacon Jim Schmall  
**OFFICE MANAGER:** Kathy Meyerkord  
**BOOKKEEPER:** Kathleen Halligan  
**LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTOR:** JoAnne Romer-Aylward  
**DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION:** Julie Dew  
**OCIA:** Bruce Boudin  
**WELCOMING, EVENTS AND SOCIALS (WEST):** All  
**GARDENS & GROUNDS:** Ilene Rainwater  
**FACILITIES:** David Girard  
**SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE:** JoAnne Romer-Aylward  
**PASTORAL CARE  
(SICK & HOMEBOUND):** Suzie Fay  
**ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP:** Camilla Sorrell  
**COLUMBARIUM:** Bob Eberhardt

### PARISH ASSOCIATIONS

**COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN:** Ilene Rainwater  
**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:** Debbie Eberhardt

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** Please contact the pastor or ask an usher for a registration form, and then place the completed form in the offertory basket or mail it to the church office. For more information call 865-448-6070.

**PARISHIONERS:** Please report any change of contact information to the parish office via e-mail, mail or phone.

**BAPTISM:** Parents are required to attend the Baptismal Prep Class. Your family must be registered in the parish.

**MARRIAGE:** Contact the parish priest a minimum of six months before the wedding to allow for marriage preparation formation.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Anyone entering the hospital or in serious ill health is encouraged to be anointed.

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Please email Microsoft Word articles to [sfbulletin7717@gmail.com](mailto:sfbulletin7717@gmail.com) with the subject of "Bulletin Announcement" by Tuesday 12:00PM. All submissions are subject to further editing to fit the format of the bulletin. THANKS!

**PASTORAL CARE AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI:** How can St. Francis of Assisi be of assistance/service to you & your loved ones? Please contact Suzie Fay at 423-829-5466 or contact the office at 865-448-6070.

**MASS INTENTIONS:** (Mass cards are available upon request at the office.)

<b>Mon</b>	<b>5/6</b>	8:30 AM	Tyler Peek†
<b>Tue</b>	<b>5/7</b>	8:30 AM	Lois Zehnder†
<b>Wed</b>	<b>5/8</b>		<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Thu</b>	<b>5/9</b>	8:30 AM	Charlie Graham
<b>Fri</b>	<b>5/10</b>	8:30 AM	Clarence Keevent†
<b>Sat</b>	<b>5/11</b>	4:00 PM	Bob & Debbie Eberhardt
<b>Sun</b>	<b>5/12</b>	9:00 AM	Florence Kivittlewski†

To schedule a Mass intention, please contact the Parish Office via phone or email or in person during office hours. Please specify whether the Mass Intention is for a living or deceased loved one. The usual requested donation for a Mass intention is \$10.00 in the Diocese of Knoxville.



**PRAYER REQUESTS:** (Homebound, sick or recovering parishioners, friends and relatives): Charlotte Graham, Pat Sanders, Judy Sanders, Doreen Mancuso, Naomi Nwadike, Chris Owens, David Holmes, Amy Frink, Myra Montera, Robert Modisett, Mary Sellers, Claire Cheadle, Elise Martin, Mike Scully, Paul Fain, Joyce Fain, Normand Messier, Jr., Raymond Payne, Sue Ann Tippitt, Charles Tippitt, Emmanuel Nwadike, Julie Schirack, Kay Walker, Jay Ladner, Deb Koehler, Laken DuRussel, Layla Sexton, Lori O'Toole, Marcus Bolte, Johnny Mallory, Louann Felske

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** *The Sanctuary Candle is lit in Memory of Pam Moretti given by the Moretti-Clapp family.* If you would like to donate to the sanctuary candle fund in memory of or in honor of someone, please contact the Parish Office via phone or email. The cost is \$15 for 1 week.



**SANCTUARY FLOWERS:** The sanctuary flowers are *in memory of Pam Moretti given by Jim Moretti.* If you would like to donate to the sanctuary flowers fund in memory of or in honor of someone, please contact the Parish Office via phone or email. The cost is \$40.00 for two weeks.





**ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP**

Open after weekend Masses and by request/appointment after daily Mass

Our gift shop has many items that will make perfect First Communion, Mother's Day and special occasion gifts just waiting to be purchased!

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>5/6</b>	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
<b>Tue</b>	<b>5/7</b>		
<b>Wed</b>	<b>5/8</b>		<b>NO Gus Lloyd meetings until 6/5/24</b>
<b>Thu</b>	<b>5/9</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>5/10</b>		
<b>Sat</b>	<b>5/11</b>	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>5/12</b>	9:00 AM	Mass

## TO LOVE AS GOD LOVES



PASTOR'S  
NOTES

Love is a very common word in our culture today. Love is a favorite theme in the media, in popular novels, in movies and television dramas, in songs, and in greeting cards. Love is usually portrayed as an emotion, a warm fuzzy feeling, or a pleasurable attraction. We even say ridiculous things like, "I just love chocolate ice cream." This is not the meaning of love we read about in today's Scripture. The greatest love that ever was, is, or will be, is the love of God described for us in the First letter of John: "In this way the

love of God is revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him." This is the love with which Christ came to live among us. Jesus speaks directly to us in John's Gospel: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." Unfortunately, our world today does not seem to value Gospel love.

Our culture urges us to do everything we can to have a full, prosperous, and happy personal life. We are to accomplish our goals, experience success, and be recognized with honor and prestige. We put ourselves first and later, perhaps, might be able to serve the welfare of others. This is a nice gesture, but truly a secondary one.

Jesus continues, "This is my commandment: Love one another as I have loved you." This is powerful. If we are to love as Christ loves, we may also be called to give our lives. However, it is important to recognize that we have examples of Christian love all around us. Think of parents who forget about themselves and their personal needs as they work tirelessly to provide a good life for their children. Oftentimes, the role gets reversed as the children eventually care generously for their aging parents. Families can be true examples of the love of Christ. In other contexts, we find people who have given their lives helping God's people. This is true Gospel love. Love is commitment. To love someone means to be willing to do whatever we can to help that person have a full and happy life. There may or may not be strong emotions involved, but the reality of love is in the dedication to the well-being of the other. A true lover is willing to forget self and focus on giving the other.

Today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles recounts the story of how the Apostles came to know the truth of God's love for all people. As members of the Jewish nation, Peter and the others knew that they were God's chosen people. What a shock it was for them when the Holy Spirit came down upon all present, Jew and Gentile alike, on that Pentecost feast. "They were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit should have been poured out on Gentiles also." The apostles learned the lesson well, though. They recognized that the saving work of Christ was for all people, and they proceeded to baptize all present.

The entire human family is loved and redeemed in Christ. Our response is simply to strive to love as God loves. God's love is for all people. Following Christ, we are called to do whatever we can for the life of God's human family. This is today's lesson in love.

Love one  
ANOTHER  
as I have  
LOVED  
you  
-JOHN 15:12

## CATECHISM

ORNER



Happy Sixth Sunday of Easter St. Francis! I'm going to take a break from "talking" about the Nicene Creed for a few weeks because we are in the month of May, which is dedicated to our Heavenly Mother Mary! In each of the important events in Mary's life, the writers of the Gospels are quick to point out that Mary, though not understanding why things happened, would ponder the events in her heart. Mary treasured the things God did for her and spent time in prayer and reflection over them. As a result, her life flowed out of trust in what God has promised for her and through her Son Jesus.

Every day, we have the opportunity to imitate Mary in her love for God by pondering who He is and the marvelous promises He has given us. Mary demonstrated great faith and trust when she willingly accepted God's purposes for her. Let us all draw close to God and ask Him for the grace to imitate Mary's "yes" to Him. (Quoted from Father Antonio's homily on the Solemnity of The Annunciation of the Lord, April 8, 2024.)

Mother Mary's intentions are always to draw us closer to her Son and our Savior Jesus. This is why I would like to take some time and reflect on the numerous Marian apparitions. Marian apparitions are appearances of the Blessed Virgin Mary, coming down from heaven to earth. In order for a reported appearance to be classified as a Marian apparition, the person or persons who claim to see Mary (the "seers") must claim that they see her visually located in their environment. Some of the most famous Marian apparitions approved by the Catholic Church include Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Lourdes, and Our Lady of Fatima. I was asked by a parishioner a while back to "talk" about the different apparitions. So, since it's the month of May, let's begin!!!

The Apparitions that I'll discuss have been granted approval either through the local Bishop based on the direction of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith or received a direct approval from the Holy See. Some of these will be familiar and others may not, so take some time to do your own examination and explore!

**Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531)**. The Catholic Church has constantly tributed to the Virgin Mary a special piety and worship. The Guadalupe Marian devotion is the basis of Christian history in Mexico, and it also supports the evangelization of the whole American continent. The Shrine of Tepeyac, where the sacred image of the Virgin of Guadalupe is the heart, has been a continuous goal of pilgrims from the XVI century, not only from the Mexican nation but also of the entire American continent. Our Blessed Mother actually appeared four times to Saint Juan Diego and once to his dying elderly uncle, Juan Bernardino. The fourth appearance to Saint Juan Diego was the most wonderful. The first apparition took place on December 9, which at that time was the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception in the Spanish Empire, of which Mexico was then a part. Our Blessed Mother appeared to Saint Juan Diego, an older native American who had recently lost his dear wife. Juan Diego himself died in 1548, seventeen years after the apparitions, at the age of 74. On May 6, 1990, Pope Saint John Paul II, during his second pilgrimage as Pope to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, declared Juan Diego blessed. Pope Saint John Paul II later canonized Juan Diego on July 31, 2002 (Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe).

Of course there is much more information concerning this apparition. I hope this gives you an incentive to investigate and explore! Don't forget to check out our Church Library in the PRC! (Thank you, Jackie Wagner, for this gift!) Have a wonderful week!



**GUS LLOYD**  
CATHOLIC Apologetics

**RESUMES**  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**1:00 PM - PARISH RESOURCE CENTER**

Our discussion group **WILL NOT** be meeting during the month of May. Any questions, please contact Julie Dew: 954-749-3929; jdewrtn2018@att.net

**CCW AND CCETN BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER**  
**4/20/24 - 5/20/24**



Please consider participating in our Baby Bottle Fundraiser! The proceeds go toward helping young families in our community. Please pick up a baby bottle in Shea Hall and return it by May 20th.

For more information please contact:  
pregnancyhelp@ccetn.org

www.ccetn.org  
877-990-4673

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—4/28/2024**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Attendance: 123**

Sunday Offertory .....	\$2,087.00
Donation Box.....	00.00
Holy Days .....	00.00
Other Donations*.....	105.00
Donations for the Week.....	\$2,192.00
Year-to-Date Donations .....	\$153,944.73
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations .....	155,815.94
Year-to-Date Donation <b>Deficit</b> .....	<b>(\$1,871.21)</b>

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund .....	\$00.00
Parish Charity.....	00.00
Second Collection .....	407.00
Total Non-Budget Donations.....	<u>\$407.00</u>

\* Mass Intentions, Flowers, Candles, Facility Use, etc.

\*\* Based on Year-to-Date Total Donations minus Year-to-Date Budgeted



“Your vocation in life is where your greatest joy meets the world’s greatest need,”

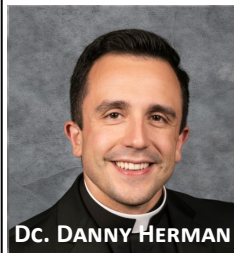
- Frederick Buechner



A person does not choose a vocation. A vocation is a calling.

- David Brooks

**VOCATIONS STORY NIGHT - WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024 - 5:30 PM**



**DC. DANNY HERMAN**



**SR. CELESTE MARY, RSM**



*All Are Welcome!*



**MR. & MRS. GUS GOCELLA**



**FR. MARK SCHUSTER**

Dinner and Desserts † Adoration † Vocation Stories





## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today, Jesus says to us, "This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you... You are my friends if you do what I command you."

**By your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you fulfill this commandment.**

Have you considered answering the call to serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul? Contact Debbie Eberhardt at 865-312-0141 for more information.

SVDP normally meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month at 5:00 PM in the PRC. **However, during the month of May, we will not be meeting.** When we resume our meetings, all Are Welcome!

*Thank You*

for your continued support of SVDP!

### SVDP MAY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"

DISH SOAP



& SPONGES



Occasionally, we run out of paper bulletins after our weekend Masses. If we have run out of bulletins, you can always request a paper bulletin from the church office or access our bulletins online at our website

[www.stfrancistownsend.org](http://www.stfrancistownsend.org).

Just click on the "Bulletin" icon/button on our website's home page and then select the week you wish to view. Additionally, you may choose to receive the weekly bulletin as an e-mail attachment simply by sending an e-mail with "E-Bulletin" in the subject line to:

[SFABulletin7717@gmail.com](mailto:SFABulletin7717@gmail.com).

### JOIN BISHOP BARRON AND PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD IN PRAYING THE ROSARY DURING THE MONTH OF MAY



**50,000**  
ROSARIES

Last year Bishop Barron and Word on Fire Ministries celebrated the Virgin Mary during May by asking their supporters to help pray 10,000 Rosaries throughout the month for the intention that those who have left the Church might return.

People logged their Rosaries on the WordOnFire website so that their locations would appear on a map, and, within 48 hours, they had already exceeded their goal. By the end of the month, more than 64,000 Rosaries were prayed all over the world!

Bishop Barron is once again asking everyone to join in praying at least 50,000 Rosaries for the conversion of the lost sheep among us—and he would love to reach 100,000 this time! For more information, and to log your rosary online visit [www.wordonfire.org/pray-rosary/](http://www.wordonfire.org/pray-rosary/).

**Log Your Rosary**

SHINE BRIGHT, DO GOOD  
A KENDRA SCOTT GIVES BACK EVENT!



May 7th, 2024 - 5-7 pm  
5350 Kingston Pk.

20% of sales will go toward benefitting Catholic Charities of East TN!

OR: Shop online until 11:59 pm EST using the giveback code **GIVEBACK-GDSHF** to benefit CCETN right from your home!



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE  
DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST



*Pope St. John Paul II  
(1920-2005)*

*“The Eucharist educates us  
to this love in a deeper way;  
it shows us, in fact,  
what value each person,  
our brother or sister, has in God’s eyes,  
if Christ offers Himself equally  
to each one,  
under the species of bread and wine.  
If our Eucharistic worship is authentic,  
it must make us grow  
in awareness of  
the dignity of each person.”*



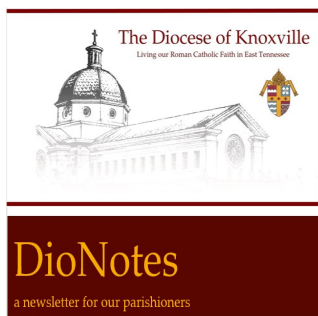
SECOND COLLECTION - MAY 11 & 12

A second collection will be taken up on May 11 & 12 for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) in its work of evangelization. Working to keep the Gospel message in the world, CCC provides Catholic content for radio, the Internet, television, and print publications. CCC focuses on finding new ways to bring the Gospel message **to you** by working to be wherever the faithful and those seeking the faith are. CCC provides content the way **you** need it—on the Internet to strengthen marriage, in podcasts for daily readings, on televi-

sion for Christmas Mass, and on Facebook for news, discussions, and sharing of the faith. Please be generous in the Collection and support this important work. **Fifty percent of the funds collected will also assist the Diocese of Knoxville’s Communications Office in our local projects.**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
5/15/2024	Vocations Story Night St. Alphonsus Catholic Church— Crossville, TN	Online: KDCCW.org E-mail: BParsons@DioKnox.org Phone: 865-584-3307
6/15/2024	Marriage Retreat: Living the Marriage God Desires for You St. Thomas in Lenoir City	Online: Tinyurl.com/KnoxMarriageRetreat E-mail: regnumchristi.knoxville@gmail.com Phone: 865-584-3307, ext. 5739
6/24/2024	National Eucharistic Pilgrimage in Chattanooga 11:00 AM - 7:30 PM	Online: dioknox.org/revival Other: Scan QR code (Bulletin or Shea Hall poster)
7/17-24/2024	Eucharistic Congress Pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, IN	Online: DioKnox.org/Revival E-mail: Revival@DioKnox.org Phone: 423-596-0181
7/26/2024	Tennessee Smokies Baseball Game Yee-Haw At the Yard Group Section	\$35.00 for adults; \$33.00 for children (12 and under) Contact the Parish Office to reserve tickets
9/10-19/2024	Pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes with Fr. Charles Robinson Coupon Code: Bulletin150	Online: Www.QoHTours.com E-mail: info@qohtours.com Phone: 800-213-4295
10/6-11/2024	Yellowstone National Park Retreat with Fr. Michael Cummins	Online: <a href="https://www.saintdominickpt.org/">https://www.saintdominickpt.org/</a> E-mail: secretary@saintdomchurch.com Phone: 423-288-8101



Are you receiving your weekly Diocesan DioNotes e-mails? DioNotes is an electronic/online newsletter covering the news, events, and the ministries of the Diocese of Knoxville. If you are not yet on the mailing list, and would like to be, go to [www.DioKnox.org](http://www.DioKnox.org), scroll down to the bottom of the page and

- ❶ click on the DioNotes Newsletter area:
- ❷ fill in the form that pops up
- ❸ click on the **SUBMIT** button at the bottom of the form.



DioNotes will be delivered (for free 😊) to your email inbox every Friday.