



JULY 21, 2024 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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 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.)

Mon	7/22	8:30 AM	Bea Daily†
Tue	7/23	8:30 AM	Herma Peychal†
Wed	7/24	NO MASS	
Thu	7/25	8:30 AM	Brian Barker†
Fri	7/26	8:30 AM	Lucille Weiland†
Sat	7/27	4:00 PM	Cathy Peychal
Sun	7/28	9:00 AM	Edward Szekely†

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, Claire Cheadle, Elise Martin, Mike Scully, Paul Fain, Joyce Fain, Raymond Payne, Sue Ann Tippitt, Charles Tippitt, Emmanuel Nwadike, Kay Walker, Julie Schirack, Jay Ladner, Deb Koehler, Laken DuRussel, Marcus Bolte, Johnny Mallo-ry, Louann Felske, Kathy Meyerkord, Stephanie Romer, John & Maria Bermudes, Anne Pate, Tony Lee Bertsch, Timothy Hall

SANCTUARY CANDLE *The Sanctuary candle is lit in memory of Gabriel Ruiz given by Mark & Judy Ruiz.* 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.



“Stand in the truth. God’s faithful hand has held you all this way. You are still here. You are still standing. He has stayed with you thus far, and He will not abandon you now.”

Lisa Brenninkmeyer
from her book *Rest: 31 Days of Peace*

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	7/22	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	7/23		
Wed	7/24	1:00 PM	Gus Lloyd Discussion Group—PRC
Thu	7/25		
Fri	7/26		
Sat	7/27	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	7/28	9:00 AM	Mass



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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

BEING A LEADER ... BEING A SERVANT



PASTOR'S
NOTES

Today's first reading is from the Book of Jeremiah. Jeremiah was a brave and courageous prophet who spoke out against the dominant culture of the Southern kingdom of Judah that had fallen sick from the sinfulness of idolatry and injustice. After making it clear how wicked it is to mislead others into living sinfully, Jeremiah prophesies that the Lord will raise up good shepherds, who will lead the remaining faithful people through a time of peace and multiplication. From this faithful remnant, God will raise up a king who will, "reign and govern wisely ... doing what is just and right in the land" (Jeremiah 23:6). Jeremiah makes it clear that God wishes for leaders to be like shepherds, willing to guard their sheep and provide for their needs.

In the gospel of John, Jesus calls himself the "good shepherd" who was willing to give up his life for his sheep (John 10:11). Shepherds are called to be selfless. Today's gospel concludes that, when Jesus disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus makes it clear that good leaders empower their community with truth and clarity. Today, our world still suffers from the scourge of misinformation, sometimes from the most powerful leaders in our societies.

The world needs better leadership. For all the time we spend talking about leadership, studying about leadership, writing about leadership, and holding workshops on leadership, we do not seem to be making much of a difference. We experience the effects of bad leadership in our workplaces and communities.

People, often the most vulnerable, are manipulated and fed lies for profit. As people of faith, we must make it clear to our leaders that the vulnerable are not a commodity. Our scripture readings this weekend give us a framework for how we ought to select our leaders. Leaders should promote peace and security for all people and enact laws that protect people from violence, racism, xenophobia, predatory loans, maltreatment, manipulation, etc. We should expect our leaders to protect us from the unquenchable greed of those who aim to mislead in order to gain more power and wealth.

Throughout the Bible, the best image of a leader is a shepherd. Shepherds were never folks high on the social ladder, which may seem surprising. This was part of the message about leadership, though. Being a leader was not about being high in stature but about being a servant. Shepherds most often cared for sheep that were not their own. In fact, they were even asked to risk their lives to protect them. Christ, our shepherd, always acknowledged that his sheep, his disciples and followers, belonged to God his Father. As all Christians know, Jesus died to protect us from threats of sin and death.

Too often, our leaders are not the people they make themselves to be. As a good shepherd, Christ fed the people, first with the words and then (as we will hear in next week's gospel) with the loaves that he multiplied. Coincidentally, this is what happens at every Mass – we are fed by the Word and the Eucharist.

Let us enter deeper into this Eucharistic feast with joyful hearts for our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. May we be inspired by his prophetic witness to truth and justice and commit ourselves to bringing the needs of today into sacred spaces.



CATECHISM

CORNER



Happy 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time weekend, St. Francis Parishioners!

I hope this weekend you are recharging on the “corner” of happy and healthy!

I have to apologize because in this “Corner” I will again be “talking” about St. Peter! I know, I know, you want me to move on, but there is just SO much about him I want to share!

After the Resurrection, Jesus appears to Peter and His disciples several times. In one story, Peter encounters Jesus by the Sea of Tiberias. When he spots Jesus on the shore, he jumps out of his boat lightly clad and swims over to the Lord. On the shore, Peter and Jesus have one of the most meaningful conversations in the entire Bible. After having denied Jesus three times, Peter now responds with a three-fold yes, answering Jesus each time, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you!” Jesus reiterates Peter’s role to shepherd and lead His people, and then Jesus foretells Peter’s death by crucifixion.

‘Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.’ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he (Peter) would glorify God.) After this He said to him, ‘Follow me.’” While it might be lost on us, Jesus’ words that Peter will “stretch out his hands” is a reference to Peter’s death by crucifixion. After this prophecy by Jesus, the New Testament goes on to show us how much the Resurrection transforms Peter’s life. He goes from a man who denied Jesus three times and hid in the Upper Room, to a man who, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, powerfully preaches the Gospel and even performs miracles. He becomes a formidable figure through whom the Lord leads His Church in these first few years.

But as we read on in the New Testament, the sacred authors never tell us the end of his story. So, the question remains: Was Peter ever crucified? One tradition states that when Peter faced his martyrdom, he asked to be crucified upside down because he believed he wasn’t worthy to die in the same way as Jesus. There’s also a document from the early 200’s that claimed that Peter was buried at a particular spot in Rome and that early Christians arranged memorials at his tomb. Later, the Emperor Constantine built a church over this place, and in time, the Catholic Church set its headquarters – the Vatican – over this very spot. Yet despite this rich tradition, some modern historians still denied that Peter ever made it to Rome or that he was martyred for the faith. They questioned whether Peter actually fulfilled Jesus’ prophecy and wondered if Peter really did fulfill his ‘yes’ to the Lord. So, did Peter make it to Rome?

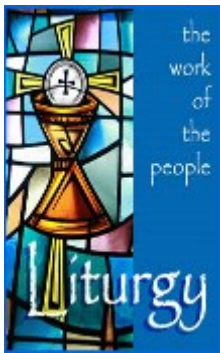
The Church had stories from the past but didn’t have any tangible proof in the present. That all changed, however, during World War II when something incredible happened. Archeologists began exploring the ground beneath the Vatican. Fearing that the Nazis or Fascists would find out, they kept their work a secret. As they began digging through layer after layer, they knew they were on to something. They continued to dig until they found the most fascinating find of all – a tomb. And on the outside of this tomb, they discovered an inscription that read: “Peter is near.” Then, archeologists found another inscription that said: “Here lies Peter.” Peter’s name was found over 20 times in the area. And when archaeologists opened that tomb, they found even greater evidence. The bones inside were those of a sixty to seventy year old robust male, approximately the age of Peter when he died. The bones were compatible with the remains of a person crucified upside down. The feet of these remains had been cut off; Roman guards often cut the feet of crucified criminals because it was easier than removing nails. And the remains in the tomb had once been covered with a purple and gold cloth whose dye was only used in Rome during the first to third centuries.

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This discovery confirmed what the early Church always claimed – Peter did go to Rome. He was willing to die for Jesus. And he was martyred for the faith. The Scriptures foretold it. Early Church writers reported it. Now the stones and bones beneath the Vatican proved it for all to see. The man upon whom Jesus wanted to build His Church literally had the Church built over his grave. Peter did say yes. St. Peter pray for us! St. Peter’s feast day is June 29 and he is the Patron Saint of netmakers, shipbuilders, fishermen, locksmiths, popes, Rome and many cities that bear his name, such as St. Petersburg.

See, I told you it would be interesting! Have a most glorious week friends! Next week, the Apostle Andrew!

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES QUARTERLY SIGN-UPS FOR AUGUST, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER



It is time for Liturgical Ministries signup! The signup sheets are on the counter in Shea Hall. Please take a few minutes after Mass this weekend and next to sign up for your ministry/ministries.

If you would like more information about our Liturgical Ministries, please check out our website, the bulletin board in Shea Hall or contact one of our ministry heads:

Lectors	Martha Frink	865-556-4684	marthafrink00@gmail.com
EMHC*	Karen Messenger	225-572-9400	komessenger@gmail.com
Ushers	Paul Czerniewski	847-877-7347	paul.czerniewski@gmail.com
Sacristans	Kathy Meyerkord	630-698-5563	kmmeyerkord@gmail.com
Altar Servers	Dan Meyerkord	708-846-4144	dkam27@sbcglobal.net

* Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

“CONVERSIONS MAKE HISTORY”

A mini-conference touching on the realities of faith, love, law, and life!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2024

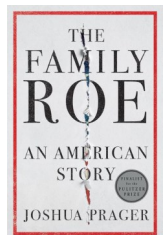
9:00 A.M. - NOON

HOLY CROSS PARISH HALL

144 WEARS VALLEY ROAD, PIGEON FORGE, TN



Daniel Vinzant, a former Baptist Minister, now Catholic Missionary, pastored Trinity Baptist church in Waco, Texas for 20 years. His love for the Blessed Mother and a deep respect for God’s gift of life led him to Catholicism. Daniel played a key role in Norma McCorvey’s conversion story, as she went from “Jane Roe” to a proud Catholic defender of life. Daniel’s role in this nation-wide story is featured in the highly-acclaimed, best-selling book, *The Family Roe* by Joshua Prager. Come listen to these amazing conversion stories and pray about your own walk with the Lord.



Our mini-conference will begin with coffee and pastries following the 8:00 am Mass

For more information contact: Mary Lou Lasky 312-316-1977

or Fr. Tom Koys 773-909-1402



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

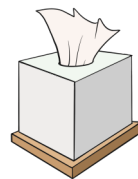
In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." Vincent de Paul, a great man of action was also a contemplative. His contemplation of God's love overflowed into practical love for the poor. Please say a special prayer for the poor and forgotten, as you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul poor box.

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 typically meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 5:00 PM in the PRC. However, **we will not meet again until the 7th of August.** At that time (and as always) all are welcome to attend!

Thank You
for your continued support of SVDP!

SVDP JULY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" TOILET PAPER AND TISSUES



SMOKIES BALL GAME AUGUST 9TH

Yee-Haw at the Yard Group Section

\$35/adults
\$33/children (12 and under)

BUFFET DINNER FROM 6:15 - 7:45

FIRST PITCH AT 7:00 PM

Reserve your tickets on the sign up sheets in Shea Hall. Payment is due by July 28th. Please make your checks payable to St. Francis of Assisi Church.

Fireworks image courtesy of pngtree.com

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

As most of you know, the Parish (and Diocesan) fiscal year ended on June 30th. Our bookkeeper will be preparing a year-end financial statement in the next few weeks. She is waiting for the Diocese to provide the financial information for June. Once the financial statement is completed and reviewed by Father and the Finance Committee, it will be published in the bulletin and presented to the Parish.

Please keep in mind that what has been published in the bulletin this past year only compared budgeted income to actual weekly income. Expenses were not included in this analysis.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

"The personal and moral transformation that is sustained by the Eucharist reaches out to every sphere of human life. The love of Christ can permeate all of our relationships: with our families, our friends, and our neighbors. This Love (of Christ) extends particularly and 'preferentially to the poor and most vulnerable.'"

The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church

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Eucharisticrevival.org

Episcopal Ordination and Installation of Bishop Mark Beckman



Bishop-elect James Mark Beckman will be ordained and installed as the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Knoxville on

**Friday, July 26 at 2 p.m.
at the Knoxville Convention Center**

Tickets are required to attend and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. For links, and more information, please visit:

<https://dioknox.org/episcopal-ordination>



BISHOP-ELECT BECKMAN'S EPISCOPAL COAT OF ARMS

Ecclesiastical heraldry was developed in the Church as a way of identifying people and dioceses and to officially mark documents. Every bishop and diocese has a coat of arms that is unique to that person/diocese. In designing his shield—the central element in what is formally called the heraldic achievement—a bishop has an opportunity to depict symbolically various aspects of his own life and heritage and to highlight particular aspects of Catholic faith and devotion that are important to him.

Every coat of arms includes external elements that identify the rank of the bearer: the low crowned, wide brimmed ecclesiastical hat, commonly the Roman *galero*, indicates rank based on its ornamentation and color (bishop is green, cardinal is red, etc.). With the internal elements, the bishop has the opportunity to depict symbolically various aspects of his own life and/or highlight particular aspects of the faith that are important to him.

A *blazon*, derived from medieval French and English terms, is an official description, allowing the appearance and position of each element to be recorded precisely.

Bishop-elect Beckman is an avid hiker and has a deep appreciation for the beauty of God's creation. His coat of arms reflects this part of his life, in which he has found much solace and communion with God in prayer. His personal arms display a symbolic natural setting on a field of green (*vert*), which also has ties to the bishop's heritage, and to Sacred Scripture.

The bishop's surname is German, and derives from the word *beck*, which means a stream or brook. This is depicted by the wavy vertical lines (pale wavy) painted white and blue (*argent* and *azure*) in the center of the shield. This also recalls the prophecy related by St. John the Evangelist about the City of God, the New Jerusalem, which he sees in a vision near the end of the Book of Revelation: "Then the angel showed me, the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city" (Rev 22:1).

John also saw, "on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations" (Rev 22:2). The tree of life and its fruit are alluded to here by twelve leaves of the tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). This was chosen as the

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Upcoming events

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
7/26/24	Installation/Ordination Mass at 2:00 PM for Bishop Elect Mark Beckman at Knoxville Convention Center	Online: https://dioknox.org/episcopal-ordination E-mail: To Be Announced Phone: To Be Announced
8/9/2024	Tennessee Smokies Baseball Game Yee-Haw At the Yard Group Section	\$35.00 for adults; \$33.00 for children (12 and under) Signup on sheets in Shea Hall
8/10/2024	<i>Conversions</i> Mini-Conference Holy Cross Parish Hall - Pigeon Forge	Phone: 312-316-1977 Phone: 773-909-1402
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: https://www.saintdominickpt.org/ E-mail: secretary@saintdomchurch.com Phone: 423-288-8101

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state tree of Tennessee in 1947, because, as the Tennessee Assembly wrote at the time, “it grows from one end of the state to the other,” and “was extensively used by the pioneers of the state to construct houses, barns, and other necessary farm buildings.” It is an appropriate symbol for the state that comprises both the Diocese of Nashville, where Bishop-elect Beckman was born and served as a priest, and the Diocese of Knoxville, which he will serve as its bishop.

The scroll below the shield is inscribed with the bishop’s motto. It is taken from the Letter to the Hebrews: “Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever” (Heb 13:8).



A DIOCESAN BISHOP shows his commitment to the flock he shepherds by combining his personal coat of arms with that of the diocese, in a technique known as impaling.

The central feature of the coat of arms of the Diocese of Knoxville, designed by Deacon Paul Sullivan in 1988, is a cross in gold (Or), taken from the arms of Pope John Paul II, who established the diocese. Three small red (Gules) crosses on this large gold cross represent the three dioceses in the state of Tennessee.

The background of the shield that shows behind the cross is divided quarterly into areas of red and blue (Azure). Charges in these quarters allude to natural features that dominate the landscape of East Tennessee: mountains, a dogwood blossom, and the Tennessee River. A railroad trestle in the bottom right quarter honors the Irish immigrants who brought the Catholic faith to the area, many of whom worked constructing railroads, especially trestles.

A diocesan bishop shows his commitment to the flock he shepherds by combining his personal coat of arms with that of the diocese, in a technique known as impaling. The shield is divided in half along the pale or central vertical line. The arms of the diocese appear on the dexter side—that is, on the side of the shield to the viewer’s left, which would cover the right side (in Latin, *dextera*) of the person carrying the shield. The arms of the bishop are on the sinister side—the bearer’s left, the viewer’s right.