



OCTOBER 6, 2024
27TH 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 4:00PM (Vigil Mass) The Rosary is prayed 35 minutes before each Weekend Mass
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 PM (Church confessional)
Sunday Before Mass: 8:15 - 8:40 AM (Church confessional)
Confessions may also be scheduled by calling the parish office for an appointment.

HOLY DAYS: Check bulletin or website

PARISH MINISTRY TEAM

PASTOR	Rev. Antonio Giraldo	GARDENS & GROUNDS	Ilene Rainwater
DEACON	Deacon Jim Schmall	FACILITIES	David Girard
OFFICE MANAGER	Kathy Meyerkord	SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE	JoAnne Romer-Aylward
BOOKKEEPER	Kathleen Halligan	PASTORAL CARE	Suzie Fay
LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTOR	JoAnne Romer-Aylward	ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP	Camilla Sorrell
DIR. OF RELIGIOUS ED.	Julie Dew	COLUMBARIUM	Bob Eberhardt
RCIA/OCIA	Bruce Boudin	WELCOMING, EVENTS &	All Parishioners
ART & ENVIRONMENT	Norene O'Donnell	SOCIALS TEAM (WEST)	

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 office a minimum of six months prior to the wedding for planning and preparation.

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 sfabulletin7717@gmail.com with the subject of "Bulletin Announcement" by Tuesday 12:00PM. All submissions are subject to further editing.



How can St. Francis of Assisi be of assistance/service to you & your loved ones?
Please contact Suzie Fay with our Pastoral Care Ministry at 423-829-5466 or the Parish office at 865-448-6070.

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

Mon	10/7	8:30 AM	Brian Barker
Tue	10/8	8:30 AM	Yvette Sturm
Wed	10/9	NO MASS	
Thu	10/10	8:30 AM	Luke Simons
Fri	10/11	8:30 AM	JoAnn Nieman Natalie & Joseph Watson
Sat	10/12	8:30 AM	Kerry O'Brien Michael O'Brien
Sun	10/13	9:00 AM	Therese Messier

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, Deb Koehler, Laken DuRussel, Marcus Bolte, Johnny Mallory, Louann Felske, Kathy Meyerkord, Stephanie Romer, John & Maria Bermudes, Anne Pate, Michael Slater

SANCTUARY CANDLE: 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: 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 for sanctuary flowers is \$40.00 for one week.



**INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES
TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS
IN THE EUCHARIST**

**St. Angela of Foligno
(1248 - 1309)**

*“If we paused for a moment
to consider attentively
what takes place
in this Sacrament,
I am sure that the
thought of Christ’s love for us
would transform
the coldness of our hearts
into a fire
of love and gratitude.”*



Eucharisticrevival.org

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	10/7	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	10/8	4:00 PM	RCIA Class - PRC
Wed	10/9	1:00 PM	Bible Study - PRC
Thu	10/10		
Fri	10/11		
Sat	10/12	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	10/13	9:00 AM	Mass



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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

CALLED TO EMBRACE GOD'S ABUNDANT GRACE



Human life plays under the shadow of the cross. Until God's kingdom finally and fully comes, humanity will always know the pain of suffering and death.

Today's gospel highlights one particular point of pain for many people across time: divorce. Too many preachers over the years have used this gospel passage to judge and condemn.

Upon further reflection we encounter a Jesus in today's Gospel who subverts patriarchal norms and sides with the oppressed. His radical actions give a glimpse of the Kingdom of

God still to come – a Kingdom of possibility and grace. Jesus preached this message at a time when women held even less rights than they do today. Men held the power to initiate divorce, as we see in the Pharisees' question to Jesus: "Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?" They pay no attention, legally or socially, to the needs of their wives despite the great threat of divorce to their livelihoods. The women Jesus encountered who experienced divorce could easily end up with nothing – no money, no shelter, no protections – regardless of the reason for the divorce. It's always difficult to preach on this gospel without at the same time seeming to condemn those who have had to get a divorce. Sometimes there is a good reason for getting a divorce. I have given my support to many people who needed to file a divorce for the legal protection it affords. Notice, as our Lord teaches us that no human being has the power to separate what God has joined. The Church has constantly taken Jesus' words literally even in the face of ongoing criticism for not following the liberal spirit of society today. Jesus does not advocate for divorce on a whim or as a simple solution for marital challenges.

One of the things that confuses people is the difference between annulments and divorces. A divorce is a legal matter. It is the declaration by the state that the marriage is ended. Sometimes it is necessary. Sometimes a spouse has to protect himself or herself from serious harm. The Church does not grant divorces to end marriages. The Church may grant an annulment after a marriage has broken up. An annulment is a statement that after serious investigation by Church authorities a couple are not obligated to each other under God because there was something seriously lacking in their commitment from the beginning.

The Mosaic Law may allow for divorce, but in a perfect world love lasts forever - until death do us part. This is the world Jesus comes to usher in – a world overflowing with God's everlasting peace and unity where there will be no more death, no more mourning, or crying, or pain.

We are not yet living in this perfect world. We mourn. We cry. We feel pain. And sometimes, our relationships die. Knowing we cannot bring about the kingdom on our own, Jesus calls us to embrace God's abundant grace, to receive the possibilities of the coming Kingdom like a child – eager, energized, full of wonder and awe. As we navigate the difficulties of today – especially any relational challenges, may we lean on the hope of Jesus for the coming of God's perfect Kingdom.



THIS WEEKEND'S ALTAR AND CHURCH FLOWERS



Thank you newlyweds Kathryn and Brian Watts for the beautiful donation of your wedding floral arrangements! They will enhance our liturgies and celebrations this weekend and will be enjoyed by all! Thank you again, and congratulations on your marriage!

CATECHISM

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GUARDIAN ANGELS

Welcome St. Francis to the Catechism Corner! In today's Corner we are going to "talk" about our Guardian Angels! Remember the prayer: Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen". I still say it!

Pretty much every day there is a special feast or memorial in the Catholic Church, but October 2nd is the feast of the Holy Guardian Angels. Christian iconography and music abound with angels, and the Catholic Church has major feasts celebrating angels and guardian angels. The Fourth Lateran Council stated that belief in guardian angels is "implicit" in Scripture. That every individual soul has a guardian angel has never been defined by the Church, and is, consequently, not an article of faith; but it is the "mind of the Church," as St. Jerome expressed it: "how great the dignity of the soul, since each one has from his birth an angel commissioned to guard it." The CCC 336 affirms that "from its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession. "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life." – quote of St. Basil. Already here on earth the Christian life shares by faith in the blessed company of angels and men united in God. The idea of a guardian angel can also be seen as a symbol of God's love for people, and how he cares for each person individually.

This belief in guardian angels can be traced throughout all antiquity, even in paganism. We have the story of Tobias, which might serve as a commentary on the words of Psalm 91:11: "For he commands his angels with regard to you, lest you strike your foot against a stone." You really need to read Chapter 10 of the Book of Daniel because he has an Angelic Vision! Briefly, in Daniel chapter 10, angels are entrusted with the care of particular districts; one is called "prince of the kingdom of the Persians," and Michael is termed "one of the chief princes." But in the New Testament the doctrine is stated with greater precision. Angels are everywhere, the intermediaries between God and man; and Christ set a seal upon the Old Testament teaching: "See that you despise not one of these little ones: for I say to you, that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 18:10). A twofold aspect of the doctrine is here put before us: even little children have guardian angels, and these same angels lose not the vision of God by the fact that they have a mission to fulfil on earth.

Without dwelling on the various passages in the New Testament where the doctrine of guardian angels is suggested, it may suffice to mention the angel who assisted/comforted Christ in the garden, and the angel who delivered St. Peter from prison. Hebrews 1:14 puts the doctrine in its clearest light: "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent to minister for them, who shall receive the inheritance of salvation?" This is the function of the guardian angels; simply they are to lead us, if we wish it, to the Kingdom of Heaven. I believe our Guardian Angel deserves a BIG thank you!

St. Thomas teaches us, in his Summa Theologica, that only the lowest orders of angels are sent to men, and consequently that they alone are our guardians. Not only the baptized, but every soul that cometh into the world receives a guardian spirit; St. Basil, however (Homily on Psalm 43), and possibly St. Chrysostom (Homily on Colossians) would hold that only Christians were so privileged. Our guardian angels can act upon our senses and upon our imaginations — not, however, upon our wills, except by a persuasive manner by working on our intellect, and thus upon our will, through the senses and the imagination. Finally, they are not separated from us after death, but remain with us in heaven, not, however, to help us attain salvation, but "ad aliquam illustrationem" which means to enlighten us with their angelic ministry. That's pretty





“Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life.”

- St. Basil

“This Sunday at Mass, thank God for the gift of the Spirit, through whom we can always have Jesus in our midst. Look around and see Jesus not only in the Eucharist but also in the word in the readings, in the priest celebrating the Mass and speaking his words, and in the community of people around you, the body of Christ.”

MARK HART
Ask the Bible Geek Pt. 1



DynamicCatholic.com



RCIA AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

Our RCIA classes have begun! Whether you are inquiring about the Catholic faith or are already a Catholic wishing to learn more about your faith, please join us in the PRC (Parish Resource Center) on Tuesdays at 4:00 PM!

All are welcome! Bring your Bible and a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Jim: sfadeacon7717@gmail.com OR 901-493-2123.

Fall Fun Fest



SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY, NOV 3RD

SHEA HALL 4-7 PM

MUSIC

**Benton's
Hot Dogs**

**Chili
& fixins!**

TRIVIA



**DIY
Dessert Table**



FUN

**YOUR FREE-WILL OFFERING WILL BE GLADLY
ACCEPTED TO HELP COVER FOOD COSTS!**

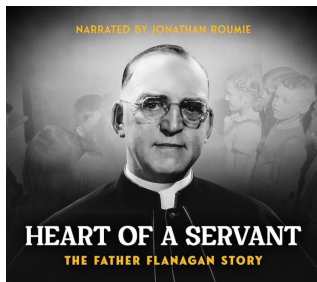
Save the Date!

*Parish Family
Christmas Party*

December 15th

*The Barn Event Center
in Townsend*





HEART OF A SERVANT - THE FATHER FLANAGAN STORY

Narrated by Jonathan Roumie

In theaters ONLY - ONE night October 8th

Closest theatre to Townsend: Governor's Crossing 14 (7:00 PM)
1402 Hurley Dr. Sevierville, TN 37862

The film chronicles the priest's life and eventually charts his trips to war-torn Europe and Asia at the request of Presidents Roosevelt and Truman to help save children after World War II. The film is poignantly uplifting because of the love and relief he not only brought to others but also inspired them to imitate. For additional theatre locations and more information please visit <https://www.fatherflanaganfilm.com/>



Second Collection - October 12 & 13 Diocesan Deacon Formation Program

Please be generous in supporting our Diocesan Deacon Formation Program on October 12th and 13th. Our diocese is greatly blessed with over 100 deacons, 24 of whom were ordained in 2022. Your donation will assist not only with the ongoing formation and development of our deacons now serving in the diocese, but will also help with funding the instruction of the 17 men who began their five-year process of formation in 2022 and will be ordained, God willing, in 2027.

Deacons are ordained to the service of the Bishop, his priests, and the people of God. They are a bridge between the sanctuary and the world in which they love. They bring the altar to the neighborhood and bring the needs of the neighborhood to the altar. They teach and help organize charitable resources within the parish and diocese. They bring the Gospel and the gift of themselves to the soup kitchens, the food banks, prisons, hospitals and wherever else a need exists as well as to the parish they are assigned to. Thank you for your support and generosity.



Second Collection - October 19 & 20 Pontifical Collection for World Mission Sunday

"Go and invite everyone to the banquet."

A second collection will be taken up on October 19th and 20th for World Mission Sunday. As a theme for this year's World Mission Sunday, Pope Francis has chosen: "Go and invite everyone to the banquet," inspired by the parable of the wedding banquet in Matthew 22:9. By baptism, all Catholics are called to participate in the mission of the Church and to share their faith as missionaries of the Gospel. This collection supports the pastoral and evangelizing programs and needs of nearly 1,200 mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America. Funds are distributed in the Holy Father's name by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith—a Pontifical Mission Society. Pope Pius IX first instituted Mission Sunday for the whole Church with the first worldwide collection in 1927 in order to help emphasize our catholicity and universal solidarity in sharing in our common responsibility for evangelizing the world.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

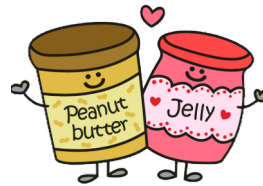
In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples, "Let the children come to me...for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." This week, please help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to bring the love and mercy of Jesus to children who are hungry and cold.

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 meets the 1st and 3rd
Wednesdays of the month at 5:00 PM
in the PRC. All are welcome to attend!

Thank You
for your continued support of SVDP!

SVDP OCTOBER "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY



HEALING MINISTRY AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH!



We have begun our healing ministry here at St. Francis of Assisi that will complement our First Friday of the Month Mass and Adoration.

If you would like to be trained to be a part of the healing team that will pray over individuals after the Mass, please call Darlene Leitz at 574-238-1705 or email darby321@comcast.net for more information.

*"Heal me, Lord, that I may be healed;
save me, that I may be saved,
for you are my praise." (Jeremiah 17:14)*

SUNDAY MORNINGS COFFEE, PASTRIES, AND FELLOWSHIP

Each Sunday after the 9:00 AM Mass, the congregation is invited into Shea Hall for Coffee, Pastries, and Fellowship. Our parishioners and visitors have really been enjoying this ministry!

YOUR help is needed to supply the pastries each week and to keep this ministry active. If you are enjoying this ministry and would be able to help out supplying pastries, **please sign up** on the clipboard hanging in the kitchen area in Shea Hall.

Please contact Donna Czerniewski with your questions or for more information: (847-668-4074).



RECYCLE YOUR OLD *MAGNIFICAT* AND *THE WORD AMONG US* ISSUES

The local Franciscan Fraternity is collecting outdated *Magnificat* or *The Word Among Us* issues to recycle and repurpose.



Parts of these wonderful monthly prayer books are being used to create Mass Booklets for RCIA participants in the Diocese. The Franciscan Fraternity is hoping to make 600 Mass Booklets that will be distributed to RCIA candidates throughout the diocese to help them learn about the faith they are studying and preparing to enter into. If you would like to be a part of this effort, please place your prayer books in the designated basket in Shea Hall (near the SVdP basket).

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
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
10/14/2024	Call to Action: All Day Prayer Vigil Planned Parenthood Opening 710 Cherry Street, Knoxville, TN	Online: N/A E-mail: cmr.easttennessee@gmail.com Phone: N/A
10/19/2024	Season of Creation Retreat with Fr. Michael Cummins Bays Mountain Park - Kingsport, TN	Online: N/A E-mail: vickiverik@aol.com OR cjbrace@yahoo.com Phone: N/A
11/3/2024	Parish Family Fall Get Together Shea Hall 4:00 PM	Online: N/A E-mail: stfrancistownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070
11/16/2024	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Training Shea Hall 10:00 AM	Online: N/A E-mail: komesseenger@gmail.com Phone: 225-572-7663
12/15/2024	Parish Christmas Party at The Barn Event Center in Townsend	Online: N/A E-mail: stfrancistownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070



CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH CHRISTMAS BOX OF JOY PROGRAM

Our St. Francis of Assisi Council of Catholic Women group is once again sponsoring the Cross Catholic Outreach Christmas Box of Joy project. A Box of Joy is a Christmas shoebox that is donated and packed with toys, clothing, school supplies and other treasured items by U.S. parishes, schools and groups. Each child who receives a Box of Joy also receives a rosary and a booklet in their own language that tells the story of

Jesus. Boxes of Joy are sent to children in developing countries like Haiti, Malawi and the Dominican Republic and provide hope to children in need: Each gift represents Christ's love, and may be the only Christmas gift they receive.

You can fill your own Christmas Box of Joy (available in the PRC or at the St. Clare Gift Shop) or purchase a box online at <https://crosscatholic.org/box-of-joy/> and then click on "Donate a Box of Joy Online." If you choose to fill your own box, please return the box to the church by November 1st so that we can get them to the Diocese drop-off point. CCW will pay the \$9.00 shipping fee. If you have any questions, please contact Ilene Rainwater at 865-748-1873.



Donate a Box of Joy Online