



NOVEMBER 24, 2024 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH
7717 RIVER ROAD - TOWNSEND, TN 37882
865 - 448 - 6070
WEBSITE: ST.FRANCISTOWNSEND.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 sfbulletin7717@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 11/25 8:30 AM Gene Karpinski
Tue 11/26 8:30 AM Irene Meyerkord
Wed 11/27 **NO MASS**
Thu 11/28 9:00 AM Tony Bertsch
Fri 11/29 8:30 AM Joan Weis
Sat 11/30 4:00 PM Don & Camille Sattler
Sun 12/1 9:00 AM Raymond Simons

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, Stephanie Romer, John & Maria Bermudes, Anne Pate, Michael Slater, Rocky Brach, Dennis Richards, Jeff Herzog, Edward McCaughey, Marion McCaughey

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 is \$40.00 for one week.



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

*St. Francis of Assisi
(1181 - 1226)*

*“O sublime humility!
O humble sublimity!
That the Lord
of the whole universe,
God and the Son of God,
should humble himself
like this
and hide under the form
of a little bread,
for our salvation.”*



Eucharisticrevival.org

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon 11/25 9:00 AM Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue 11/26 4:00 PM RCIA Class - PRC
Wed 11/27 1:00 PM Bible Study - PRC
Thu 11/29 9:00AM Thanksgiving Day Mass
Fri 11/30
Sat 12/1 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
Sun 11/24 9:00 AM Mass



**Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, 11/29/24
and
Friday, 11/30/24**



ONLY THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST IS ENDURING AND ETERNAL

With this feast of Christ the King, we come to the end of another church year. At this Feast, I'm reminded of an old hymn that was popular when I was a kid. Written in 1965 by Fr. William Jabusch, a Roman Catholic priest from the Archdiocese of Chicago, it's called "The King of Glory." The chorus goes like this, "The King of Glory comes, the nation rejoices.

Open the gates before Him, lift up your voices." A very catchy tune. Reminded me of a college fight song. The chorus and first verse are based on Psalm 24:7-8, while the other verses recount events from Jesus' life and work. The picture of Christ as King we are given in

this beautiful hymn and our readings today is a powerful and majestic one. Empires have come and gone; Jesus Christ remains. His Kingdom is eternal. The Roman Empire is gone. The Greek Empire is gone. The French Empire is gone. The Spanish Empire is gone. The Soviet Empire is gone. The Aztec Empire is gone. The British Empire is gone. The German Empire is gone. The Japanese Empire is gone. The Ottoman Empire is gone. The Austro-Hungarian Empire is gone. Jesus Christ remains.

This Solemnity of Christ the King was made a Church-wide feast in 1925. At that time, there was Bolshevism in Russia, and Fascism in Italy. Soon there would be Nazism in Germany. Now they are all gone and Jesus Christ's Kingdom remains. When human history is finished and after the collapse of every human kingdom, in the end there will be only Jesus Christ. Only the Kingdom of Christ is enduring and eternal. The Lord's Kingdom is not only enduring but is also universal. It is wide enough, strong enough to embrace, heal and bring forgiveness to every human being however they may come to it. The Kingdom of Jesus Christ is not only eternal but also universal.

The Kingdom of Jesus Christ does not enslave us, but it sets us free. "My Kingdom does not belong to this world," says Jesus to Pilate. Its power is not from the world, but from the grace and life of the Risen Christ. We are part of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. We entered it through Baptism; were made a stronger part of it through Confirmation; we grow in it through Penance and Holy Communion; we serve it through Marriage and Holy Orders; we draw its resources in illness through the Anointing of the Sick.

On this feast of Christ, the King we look at the shape of Christ's Kingdom. Its length is eternal, enduring beyond every human kingdom until the end of time and beyond. Its width is universal, big enough to embrace every human being who ever was and ever will be. Its reach is deep and personal into every human life.

If we have been far from Christ, next week, the first Sunday of Advent, is a chance to begin to unite ourselves more deeply with Him. His Kingdom, His truth, His grace are as close as every church, every sacrament, every Mass. These are the access points into Christ's Kingdom of saving truth and lasting life. The power and peace of Christ the King are here. However, the entry and embrace of His Kingdom is up to us.



Our RCIA classes continue! 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 - even if you haven't been with us since the first

session! Bring your Bible and a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Questions? Please contact Deacon Jim: sfadeacon7717@gmail.com OR 901-493-2123.

CATECHISM

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THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

In this “Corner” we will “talk” about the Gospel of John, but I have a little more “tidbits”! Sometimes people wonder whether the Gospels were meant for Christian audiences or whether they were evangelistic documents meant to convince people to become Christian. The answer is the former, and the reason is the cost involved in producing copies of the Gospels. Before the printing press, every word had to be handwritten by a scribe, and every

sheet of papyrus or parchment had to be painstakingly manufactured by hand. As a result, a single copy of one of the Gospels was **extremely** expensive, with Matthew costing the equivalent of around \$2,200, Mark around \$1,400, Luke around \$2,400, and John around \$1,900. Only rich people and congregations that pooled resources could afford them, making it clear that they could not be handed out as evangelistic tools, so they were meant for people who were already committed Christians. Have you ever heard the phrase “the bible being chained to the church?” If not, let’s talk!

It is ironic that John’s Gospel - of all the four - is the only one that so explicitly points to its author, yet it does not name him. Why? The author was known to the first readers, so in a sense it wasn’t necessary to say his name, but there may have been other reasons. One possibility is that the author keeps himself anonymous out of humility, identifying himself simply as “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” It’s also possible that he is making himself a symbol - a stand-in for all of his readers, all of whom Jesus loves.

Another thought is since he was writing in dangerous times, he might have wanted to be anonymous so that he didn’t get in trouble with the authorities, and the strategy may not have worked. If he is also the author of Revelation, as commonly supposed, he ended up being exiled to the island of Patmos. It’s interesting to note that Revelation, of all the books attributed to John, is the only one that explicitly names its author (Rev. 1:4), and it was written after he was exiled. The Gospel of John is symbolically represented by a “rising eagle.”



The Gospel according to John presents Jesus as the eternal Word of God, who “became a human being and lived among us.” This Gospel is quite different in character from the three synoptic Gospels. It is highly literary and symbolic. It does not follow the same order or reproduce the same stories as the synoptic Gospels. It is the product of a developed theological reflection, probably written in the last decade of the first century AD. The narrative contains a series of “signs” – the Gospel’s word for the wondrous deeds of Jesus. The whole Gospel of John is a progressive revelation of the glory of God’s only Son, who comes to reveal the Father and then returns in glory to the Father. It includes such events as the wedding at Cana, the Samaritan woman at the well, and the raising of Lazarus, the story of the woman caught in adultery, as well as the discourse on the Bread of Life (MY FAVORITE) and the farewell discourse at the Last Supper. Here’s something interesting I would like to share: the story of the woman caught in adultery (8:1-11) is placed in brackets because many manuscripts and early translations omit it, while others include it in other places. Interesting – right?

The Gospel of John emphasizes the gift of eternal life through Christ, a gift which begins now and which comes to those who respond to Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. A striking feature of this Gospel is the symbolic use of common things from everyday life to point to spiritual realities, such as water, light, the shepherd and his sheep, and the grapevine and its fruit.

“The point is clear: God became one of us, in all of our grace and embarrassment, in all of our beauty and ordinariness. God had a series of human ancestors, and like most families, they were something of a motley crew. And what good news this is for us! It means that God can bring the Christ to birth even in people like us.” – The Word on Fire Bible, Bishop Robert Barron

Next week we begin a new Church year and new liturgical season! Enjoy your week!



“ Pray. Pray always. And ask for others as well as yourself; and remember that prayer is the best weapon we possess. ”

- St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
 Founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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



All gift shop items until December 15th!

The Gift Shop is fully stocked with Christmas items awaiting your early Christmas Shopping! The gift shop is open after weekend Masses and by request/appointment after daily Masses.



A Thanksgiving Blessing for You

May the LORD bless you and keep you.

May the LORD show you

His kindness and have mercy on you.

May the LORD watch over you and give you peace.

NUMBERS 6:24-26

ANGEL GIVING TREE 2024



It is time again for our annual Angel Tree, benefitting the foster children of Blount and surrounding counties. Please consider taking a tag or two from the tree and filling the wishes of a foster child in need.

If you would like to participate, but would rather not shop, there is the option of donating by check made out to the Blount County Foster Association, or with a gift card.

Gifts can be wrapped or not, whichever you prefer and need to be brought in by Sunday, December 8th to allow for time to get them to the children. Feel free to contact Laura Rapien (865-258-2022) with any questions. St. Francis has always been so generous and supportive of our foster children and on behalf of the children and our foster association, sincere thanks to all of you for your help with the Angel Tree.



MARRIAGE MINISTRY PARTNERS NEEDED

The Diocesan Marriage Office is looking for Marriage Ministry Partners. If you would be interested in supporting marriage and family topics please contact Carolyn Krings at ckrings@dioknox.org or 865-584-3307 x5739.

One aspect of our ministry is working with engaged couples and we are pleased to work alongside you sharing your life-experiences in supporting marriages and families in our diocese. Please consider sharing your life experiences with young couples contemplating entering into the world of married life.



PARISH CHARITY (GREEN ENVELOPE) UPDATE

It's been a while since we've mentioned the green envelopes included in your envelope packets. The parish is still supporting the Pregnancy Centers of East Tennessee which is under the administration of the Catholic Charities of East Tennessee (CCETN). In addition to assisting women through their pregnancies, CCETN now has a program which provides Adoption Services to assist both prospective parents and pregnant women.

Through your generous "Green Envelope" contributions over the last 14 months, St. Francis of Assisi Church has made a donation of **\$8,036.00** to the CCETN Pregnancy Help Center. Thank you for your generous and loving support to this program.

"Time is the only irreplaceable commodity in life. Money can be replaced. Jobs can be replaced. Material possessions can be replaced. Time is slippery, uncontrollable, a treasure not to be wasted."

MARK HART
Blessed Are the Bored in Spirit

 DynamicCatholic.com
Be Bold. Be Catholic.



ADVENT LECTIO DIVINA A CONTEMPLATIVE JOURNEY DURING ADVENT



*Lectio Divina is
an ancient
contemplative approach
to listening for God in scripture.*

TUESDAYS OF ADVENT
BEGINNING 12/3/24 AT 9:15 (AFTER MASS)

Advent Retreat with Fr. Julian Peters, OSB

"Give me again the joy of your help"

Saturday, December 7 ❖ 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

&

Sunday, December 8 ❖ 10:20 AM - 12:30 PM

Sign up in Shea Hall!

The words from Psalm 51 "Give me again the joy of your help" provide us with a very simple prayer to help us "keep on keepin' on" when we are faced with taking on tasks like getting ready for the holidays, cleaning and decorating, shopping, giving and receiving gifts, facing a new year. During the retreat we will talk about the exciting and the ordinary, celebrations and bewilderments, joys and sorrows and how to find and keep God in the basic stuff of life. Come and be a part of this retreat opportunity! Start your Advent season off on a prayer filled note!





THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today as we celebrate Christ the King, may we open the door of our heart so wide that we may listen to the voice of Jesus calling us to help build his kingdom here on earth.

This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring God's kingdom of love and mercy to local families providing them with food, and assistance with utility, rent and other bills. God Bless You!

On Friday November 22nd SVDP gave 90 families a complete Thanksgiving dinner! Recipients included our Neighbors In Need, Seniors from the Blount County Sheriff's Senior Outreach program and the Foster Families. Each family received a turkey and all the fixings for a Thanksgiving Day feast!

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 NOVEMBER "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" DISH SOAP AND SPONGES



NOVEMBER 30 & DECEMBER 1 SECOND COLLECTION - MAINTENANCE FUND



Your donations made to this fund will help pay for the rising cost of maintaining our aging buildings and to continue with preventative maintenance. Most recently, we have utilized this fund to repair our aging air conditioning unit in the church. And, we are in the planning process of replacing the steps and ramp surrounding the PRC building. This would not be possible without your generous contributions to the Maintenance Fund! Thank you for your support!

Visitors to our beautiful little church on the Little River frequently ask where their donation would be of the most use. We are very thankful for our visitor's financial contributions, especially during our lean winter months when tourism typically declines. This Maintenance Fund would be a great choice for making your donation!

To contribute to this fund, please place your pre-printed envelope in the second collection basket the weekend of November 30th and December 1st. If you do not have a pre-printed envelope, you may place cash or check in the second collection basket.

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH.

If you choose to mail in your donation, mark on the envelope or check that it is for the "Maintenance" Fund and send it to:

St. Francis of Assisi Church (Maintenance Fund Contribution)
7717 River Rd.
Townsend, TN 37882



UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
12/7-8/2024	Parish Advent Retreat Shea Hall and Church Sat 9 - 3:00 / Sun 10:20 - 12:30	Online: N/A E-mail: jdewtn2018@gmail.com Phone: 954-749-3929
12/14-16/2024	The Nativity Pageant of Knoxville, Inc. Knoxville Civic Coliseum 3:00, 3:00, and 7:00 PM Respectively	Online: KnoxvilleNativity.com QRcode: See flyer in Shea Hall Donation: See flyer in Shea Hall
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
12/22/2024	Santa Visits St. Francis of Assisi! After Mass ~10:30 AM	Online: N/A E-mail: stfrancistownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070
2/21/2025	SAVE THE DATE!!!! Esteban Salazar & Friends in Concert Church and Hall	Online: N/A E-mail: joannera.726@gmail.com Phone: 859-361-4561

Parish Christmas Party

December 15th - 4 - 7:00 PM

The Barn Event Center

\$53 per person - Please sign up in Shea Hall

Full payment due by Sunday, December 1st

Bring a wrapped **NON-BREAKABLE** ornament if you would like to participate in the ornament exchange game.

Please make your checks (preferred payment method) payable to
St. Francis of Assisi Church