



NOVEMBER 3, 2024
31ST 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 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 11/4 8:30 AM Charlie Graham
Tue 11/5 8:30 AM Kerry O'Brien & Michael O'Brien
Wed 11/6 **NO MASS**
Thu 11/7 8:30 AM Shawn Kiley
Fri 11/8 8:30 AM Juan Diego Giraldo
Sat 11/9 8:30 AM Raymond Nieman
Sun 11/10 9:00 AM Ruth Pickett

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 Montero, 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

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: *The Sanctuary Flowers are in memory of Marion Cain given by Eric and Gail Simons.*

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**

*Servant of God, Dorothy Day
(1897 - 1980)*

*"We cannot love God
unless we love each other.
We know Him
in the breaking of bread,
and we know each other
in the breaking of bread,
and we are not alone anymore.
Heaven is a banquet
and life is a banquet too,
even with a crust,
where there is companionship."*



Eucharisticrevival.org

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon 11/4 9:00 AM Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue 11/5 4:00 PM RCIA Class - PRC
Wed 11/6 1:00 PM Bible Study - PRC
 5:00 PM SVdP - PRC
Thu 11/7
Fri 11/8
Sat 11/9 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
Sun 11/10 9:00 AM Mass



WE NEED TO LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

Today's gospel presents us with a dialogue between Jesus and a teacher of the Law, who asks Jesus: "Which is the first of the commandments?" At the end of the dialogue, Jesus makes a final comment, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God." In his answer, Jesus reminds us of his previous promise, "I did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but to fulfill it." In fact, to answer the question, Jesus recalls a text from the Old Testament, which we heard in today's first reading from Deuteronomy, one of the most ancient texts of the Torah: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord alone: / Therefore, you shall love

the Lord, / with all your heart, / and with all your soul, / and with all your strength." This section of the Torah, the Law, is called the Shema, which means *hear* or *listen*. The Shema is the centerpiece of Jewish life and the foundation of Israel's Covenantal relationship with God. But Jesus goes even further, and He adds to this command: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." With this addition, Jesus not only complements the old precept, but reaffirms what he taught in the sermon on the mount to fulfill the Law and the Prophets.

To "hear" or "listen" is an invitation to reflect on the precepts of the Lord and to live according to those precepts. It is not just casual that Yahweh starts his mandates with the command to listen. In order to live according to the Law of God it is necessary to listen, to listen to God. It's necessary to listen to allow God's words to be instilled in our hearts. Going back to the dialogue between Jesus and the scribe, notice that Jesus not only says that the "love of God and neighbor is the greatest of commandments," but it also "is worth more than any burned offerings and sacrifices." "I desire mercy not sacrifices" says the Lord through the Prophet Oseas.

What does it mean that the Lord does not want our sacrifices? It means that more than sacrifices, he wants us to love him and our neighbor as he loves us. How many times we have fallen short in this commandment!

We need to listen to the word of God and put it into practice in our lives. If we pray with sincerity, loving God with all our hearts, with all our souls, with all our minds, and with all our strength, we are on the right track. And if we love God and our neighbor, like ourselves, we are on the right track. If we can love each other and forgive each other, even if it hurts, perhaps Jesus can say to us as he said to the doctor of the Law: "You are not far from the kingdom of God."



IN NOVEMBER WE REMEMBER

We honor the dead during the month of November. Our *Names of the Dead* book is on the tables in the St. Padre Pio/St Clare alcove in the church for the month of November.

BOOK OF THE DEAD: Please feel free to write the names of loved ones who have died **this past year** (November 1, 2023 - November 1, 2024) in the book so that the repose of their souls may be prayed over.

REMEMBRANCE TABLES: Please bring framed photos of loved ones who have died (**NOT restricted** to this past year) and place the photos on the remembrance tables in the church alcove.

The book and framed photos will remain in church throughout the month of November. The names written in the book will be honored (collectively) at each weekend Mass throughout the month of November.

CATECHISM

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THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Welcome to November, St. Francis parishioners! For the next few weeks, I would like to introduce you to our Gospel writers. During our discussions on Wednesdays with the Study of John, there have been some questions about the Gospel writers, so I thought what better place to “discuss” this than here in the Catechism Corner!

Everything **before** the Gospels (the Old Testament) points to Jesus; everything **after** the Gospels reflects on Him. You may ask: “What is a Gospel? In the simplest terms, a Gospel is an ancient Christian book about Jesus. When people refer to “the Gospels,” they’re typically referring to the four canonical ones. However, there also are non-canonical gospels that are not included in the New Testament. Because the canonical ones are known as Gospels (Greek, Euangelia), their authors are known as the four Evangelists—with a capital E, to distinguish them from ordinary evangelists, who share the message of Jesus generally.

So, let’s begin with Matthew! For various reasons, the Gospel of Matthew was the most widely shared Gospel in the early Church even though Mark’s Gospel was written first. Matthew’s Gospel presents Jesus as the great Teacher, who has the authority to interpret the Law of God, and who teaches about the Kingdom of God. It contains a nice mix of Jesus’s teachings, actions, and miracles; and it beautifully ties together the Old and New Covenants – which is to say, God’s plan for Israel and for the world after Him (Jesus). Matthew’s Gospel shines because the author tells the story of Jesus, a first century wandering preacher, constantly painting around the edges, filling in the narrative with necessary Jewish background/atmosphere/information. This is why, when the early Church wanted to reflect on Jesus’s life and hear His voice, it usually turned first to the Gospel of Matthew.

Traditionally, and there is ample evidence, the Gospel of Matthew - also known as Levi - was indeed the apostle Matthew, even though some theologians disagree with this statement. The Gospel of Matthew was written for Jewish Christians and was composed in Antioch, the capital of the Roman province of Syria. This city had a large population of Greek-speaking Gentiles and Jews. According to the Fathers of the Church, the Gospel of Matthew was written in almost certainly Aramaic and was addressed mainly to Jews living in that region. It is thought that it was first written around the year 50, but that this version disappeared soon after the destruction of Jerusalem in the year 70. Immediately after this a Greek translation of Matthew - the one we now possess - began to be used; this is regarded by the Church as canonical, authentic, and substantially the same as the original Aramaic. The Gospel of Matthew tells the good news that Jesus is the promised Savior, the One through whom God fulfilled the promises He made to His people in the Old Testament. This good news is not only for the Jewish people, among whom Jesus was born and lived, but for the whole world. The Gospel of Matthew presents Jesus as the Lion of Judah, the King of Israel, and the Messiah - a “divine man” inspired from a vision of the prophet Ezekiel 1:10 wherein he records the face was made up of man, lion, ox, and eagle. The Gospel of Matthew is symbolically represented by this “divine man” from Ezekiel’s vision.

When you begin to read the Gospel of Matthew, it can be intimidating with the long genealogy of Jesus. Why is this important? Take a moment and look at Matthew 1:1-17. Look at “this long line of characters” here in Jesus’s lineage: saints, sinners, cheats, prostitutes, murderers, poets, kings, insiders and outsiders - all leading to the Christ. Sort of like humanity in general! It continues with the birth of Jesus, describes His baptism and temptation, and then takes up His ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing in Galilee. After this, the Gospel records Jesus’ journey from Galilee to Jerusalem and the events of Jesus’ last week, culminating in His crucifixion and resurrection. It’s a good read!



Have a most blessed week St. Francis! Next week we talk about the Gospel of Mark!

**Diocese of Knoxville
Catholic Schools**
*Preparing Scholars,
Leaders, &
Saints*



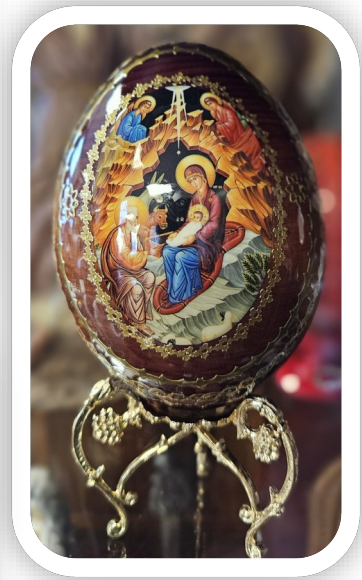
SECOND COLLECTION - NOVEMBER 10, 2024 CATHOLIC SCHOOL TUITION SUPPORT

A second collection will be taken on November 10th for Diocesan Catholic School Tuition support. The Catholic schools in our diocese provide spiritual and intellectual growth for 3,100 students in our two high schools and eight elementary schools. During the pandemic years, our Catholic schools outshined all other public and private schools, meeting all the associated challenges while ensuring the quality of our children's education remained the same. With numerous awards, unbeatable graduation rates and a passion to develop the youth of today into the leaders of tomorrow – our Catholic schools not only equip children for the journey of life but, more importantly, help to guide them along their journey to Heaven. In order to help ensure that a Catholic education is within every family's reach, we need your help. While there are many ways we seek support for our schools, no one way fully meets the growing need each year. Over the past five years, the need for supplemental tuition support has more than doubled. And over this past year, a record \$5.2 million dollars in tuition support was given to families. But with your help, additional children will experience the spiritual and academic advantages of a Catholic school education. Please be generous.

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

ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

Stop in at the Gift Shop and see all of our new items that have arrived in perfect time for your early Christmas Shopping! The gift shop is open after weekend Masses and by request/appointment after daily Masses.



“ God can be loved -
 wholeheartedly -
 anywhere.
 Loving God does not depend
 on the kind of place I'm in -
 it depends on
 the kind of person I am. ”



- Fr. Patrick Peyton
 from his book,
 Father Peyton's Rosary Prayer Book

HEALING MINISTRY AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH



Do you know that we have a healing ministry here at St. Francis of Assisi that complements our First Friday of the Month Mass and Adoration?

The healing service is offered concurrently with adoration. Healing ministers are available in Shea Hall and the sacristy while Adoration is available in the church. If you would like to be trained to be a part of the healing team, 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)*

training

EXTRAORDINARY
 MINISTERS OF
 HOLY COMMUNION



**SATURDAY
 NOVEMBER 16TH
 10:00 AM**

If you would like to learn more about becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, please join us for the November training session.

Liturgical ministers have the wonderful privilege of helping others participate in the transforming reality we call the Church's liturgy. Whether we are proclaiming a Scripture reading, taking up the collection, distributing Communion, carrying a candle, or preparing the liturgical environment, our goal is the same: to help others find in the liturgy what we have found - a community of believers, a school of holiness, and a place of encounter with Jesus Christ.

When we go to Mass, we never come out the same, because liturgy is meant to change us. The Church puts a strong emphasis on participation in the liturgy: If we participate fully, consciously, and actively in the liturgy, we cannot fail to be transformed and do our part to transform the world we live in. As liturgical ministers we are called to do just that, and to help others do the same. Everyone participates at Mass on some level. For more information please contact Karen Messenger: komessenger@gmail.com, 225-572-7663.



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*. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Jim: sfdeacon7717@gmail.com OR 901-493-2123.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today, Jesus tells us: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength...and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Through your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you can show your love for our Lord and your love of your neighbor who is hungry, hopeless, alone and frightened.

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



Advent Retreat with Fr. Julian Peters, OSB

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

&

*Sunday, December 8 (Following Mass)
10:20 AM - 12:30 PM*

Sign up in Shea Hall!



Fr. Julian Peters, OSB, a monk and priest of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, currently serves as director of the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates at Saint Meinrad. He is also a member of the Archabbot's Council, and one of the commuting chaplains for the Benedictine Sisters of the Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, IN. Fr. Julian was born October 29, 1960, in Toledo, OH. He entered the monastery on August 5, 1982, and professed his solemn vows on August 15, 1986. He was ordained a priest on May 7, 1988. Fr. Julian attended both Saint Meinrad College and School of Theology, receiving a bachelor's degree in Classics (Latin) in 1982 and a Master of Divinity in 1988. In 1994, he received a master's degree in non-profit administration from the University of Notre Dame.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
11/16/2024	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Training Shea Hall 10:00 AM	Online: N/A E-mail: komessenger@gmail.com Phone: 225-572-7663
12/7-8/2024	Parish Advent Retreat Shea Hall and Church Sat 9 - 2:30 / Sun 10:30 - 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! Sunday 4:00 PM	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
in Townsend*

\$53 per person - Please sign up in Shea Hall
Full payment due by Sunday, December 1st
Please make your checks (preferred payment method) payable to
St. Francis of Assisi Church