



**DECEMBER 1, 2024
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

PASTORRev. Antonio Giraldo DEACONDeacon Jim Schmall OFFICE MANAGERKathy Meyerkord BOOKKEEPERKathleen Halligan LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTORJoAnne Romer-Aylward DIR. OF RELIGIOUS ED.Julie Dew RCIA/OCIABruce Boudin ART & ENVIRONMENTNorene O'Donnell	GARDENS & GROUNDSIlene Rainwater FACILITIESDavid Girard SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITEJoAnne Romer-Aylward PASTORAL CARESuzie Fay ST. CLARE GIFT SHOPCamilla Sorrell COLUMBARIUMBob Eberhardt WELCOMING, EVENTS &All Parishioners SOCIALS TEAM (WEST)
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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	12/2	8:30 AM	Joan Weiss
Tue	12/3	8:30 AM	Matthew Grayson
Wed	12/4	NO MASS	
Thu	12/5	8:30 AM	Thomas DePalo
Fri	12/6	8:30 AM	Monica Nouhan
Sat	12/7	4:00 PM	Kerry O'Brien & Michael O'Brien
Sun	12/8	9:00 AM	Melanie Tompa

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, 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. Thomas Aquinas
(1225 - 1274)*

*“Sweetest Jesus,
Body and Blood most Holy,
be the delight
and pleasure of my soul,
my strength and salvation
in all my temptations,
my joy and peace
in every trial,
my light and guide
in every word and deed,
and my final protection
in death.
Amen.”*



Eucharisticrevival.org

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	12/2	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	12/3	9:15 AM	Lectio Divina
		4:00 PM	RCIA Class - PRC
Wed	12/4	1:00 PM	Bible Study - PRC
Thu	12/5	5:00 PM	SVdP - PRC
Fri	12/6	9:00 AM	Adoration, Healing Ministry
		Noon	Benediction Closing
Sat	12/7	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	12/8	9:00 AM	Mass

WE MUST BE AWAKE AND READY AT ALL TIMES



Today we begin a new Liturgical Year. We begin the new Liturgical Year with the First Sunday of Advent. As we've heard many times, the word "Advent" means "coming" and the season of Advent is a time to prepare for Christ's coming. Jesus tells us emphatically to be alert for that day.

During the season of Advent we hear the fulfillment of God's promise made to the people of Israel and Judah as proclaimed by the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah whose name means "The Lord lifts up" is warned to prepare himself to stand against hatred and opposition from his own people. But Jeremiah remains focused on the word of the Lord as he witnesses the destruction and razing of the holy city and the temple. In the midst of this devastation and demolition, God promises Jeremiah that the captivity of the people will last for only seventy years and that God will make a new covenant with God's people, raising up a just shoot from the house of David. This new covenant is rooted on principles that are not like those underlying the Mosaic covenant. This new covenant, unlike the old, will not give God's people, a law written on stone but will instead transform human hearts from within. God will inscribe holiness on the hearts of God's people. Thus, when the people come to know the Lord in a personal way and are forgiven their sins, a new dawn of righteousness and truth will break.

As Christians we simply have to look at the Lord, Emmanuel, to know and believe that God's promise has been fulfilled in the incarnation of God's own Son. In his letter to the Thesalonians, Paul reflects on this intimate relationship with this community of believers. Paul wants his followers to understand the life-giving importance of warm and loving interpersonal relationships among the members of the Body of Christ. If we are to share the Gospel effectively in building up the Body of Christ, we need to develop the kind of relationships described by St. Paul. We must increase in love and be found blameless in holiness. Sharing the Gospel of Christ with others cannot be impersonal or based solely on words. Sharing the Gospel most efficaciously calls for bonds of love and open communication.

In Luke's Gospel Jesus describes different aspects of the end times, but he does not give a step-by-step timeline for the sequence of events. He tells us we must be awake and ready at all times. We must remain watchful "for we know not the hour in which the Son of Man will appear" Advent reminds us of this reality. Let us invite the Lord to come in the fullness of power and glory so we may know that our redemption is at hand.



ADVENT



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

CORNER



Happy First Sunday of Advent and also Happy New (Church) Year! Not only do we begin a new and special Liturgical Season, we also begin a new cycle in our readings. As you are well aware of, the lectionary arranges the Sunday readings in a three-year cycle, with the characteristic feature of each year being the Gospel: year A is based on Matthew, year B on Mark, and year C on Luke. St. John's Gospel occurs on the first Sundays of Lent, during the Easter season, and on certain Sundays during year B. For weekdays there is a two-year cycle: the Gospels remain the same each year, but the first reading varies. If you recall, we heard from the Gospel of Mark this past year - which was cycle B. Our readings this weekend begin our new liturgical year of cycle C from the Gospel of Luke!

As you're also aware, the Advent season is four (4) weeks of preparation and waiting for the celebration of Christmas, the Nativity of Jesus Christ. The origin of Advent dates back to the fifth century and is influenced by the Eastern Church. The Advent season marks a time of expectation and preparation for the celebration of the primary focus of the Lord's birth at Christmas. The custom of using the Advent Wreath is believed to be of German origin. Each aspect of the Advent wreath has significance for Christian use. During the next four (4) weeks of Advent, I'll try to explain little tidbits about the Advent Wreath!

Today's tidbit: The first candle that is lit today is called the Prophet's Candle. It reminds us of the prophets, those special persons who spoke God's word to the people during the hundreds of years before Jesus was born. The prophets told the people what God was going to do, and they instructed the people on how to get ready. Over and over, the prophets warned the people to repent of their sins and to begin obeying God. (Zechariah 9:9-10; Jeremiah 33:14-15)

But more importantly during Advent, I would like to reflect on some mysteries of the Rosary with the first weekend being on the First Joyful Mystery which is the Annunciation. "The Annunciation focuses on the most elevated creature Mary the virgin mother of God. The angel's greeting to Mary is important: Hail Mary full of grace. Mary is being addressed as someone who is able to accept gifts and who is ready to receive. Then the Angel announces to the maid of Nazareth that she's been chosen to be the mother of God. Here's what Gabriel says, "Behold you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High and the Lord God will give him the throne of David His father and he will rule over the House of Jacob forever and his Kingdom will have no end."

No first century Israelite would have missed the meaning here. This child shall be the fulfillment of the promise made to King David and this means that the child is in fact the King of the world - the One Who would bring unity and peace to all the nations.

"The conviction grew upon Israel that this mysterious descendant of David would be King not just for a time and not just in an earthly sense but forever and for all nations. This definitive King of the Jews would be King of the world. He would be our King as well." Bishop Barron prelude to the First Joyful Mystery. The Bishop recites the Rosary on the Hallow App. (One of my favorite apps!)

Whenever you pray this particular Mystery, please try to reflect and contemplate on how you have allowed Jesus to be the King and Lord over your whole life! May our Lady of the most Holy Rosary intercede for all your needs this week! Next week we will look at the Second Joyful Mystery - the Visitation!

Happy Advent St. Francis of Assisi Church!



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION - 12/6/24



“Always remain close to the Catholic Church, because it alone can give you true peace, since it alone possesses Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, the true Prince of Peace.”

- St. Padre Pio

Mass: 8:30 AM
Adoration: 9:00 - Noon
Healing Service: 9:00 AM
(in Shea Hall)
Benediction: Noon

If you are interested in committing to a Holy Hour, please contact Jackie Wagner at 330-807-8663.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation Monday, December 9, 2024 Mass at 9:00 AM

The solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a holy day of obligation that is typically celebrated on Dec. 8 to honor the Blessed Mother's conception without original sin. This year, since Dec. 8 falls on the second Sunday of Advent, the holy day has been transferred to be observed on Monday, Dec. 9. Typically when a holy day of obligation is transferred to a Monday, the obligation to attend Mass is forgiven. However, this year the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) decided that the transference of the holy day to Monday, December 9 would remain a holy day of obligation.

Because clarification arrived late from the USCCB and many parishes had already set their liturgical schedules, Bishop Mark Beckman has seen fit to dispense the faithful in the Diocese of Knoxville from the obligation to attend Mass on Monday, Dec. 9. Moving forward, the Diocese of Knoxville will observe the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception as a holy day of obligation when it is transferred to Monday.



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. When you would like Healing Prayers after the 1st Friday Mass, please come into Shea Hall and a prayer minister will pray for you individually in the Sacristy.

Our Healing Ministry is made up of lay ministers who have been trained to pray for your needs and healing. During our time with you, you will be advised that this is NOT a Sacrament (such as Anointing of the Sick). You will be asked for permission to lay hands on your shoulders while being prayed for and you will be offered Holy Water to use for blessing yourself and then faithfully receive our healing prayers. Healing prayers will be for emotional, physical and/or spiritual healing.

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)*

*“Chosen in advance
to be the mother of the incarnate world,
Mary is at the same time
the first fruits of his redeeming action.
The grace of Christ the Redeemer
acted in her in anticipation,
preserving her from original sin
and from a contagion of guilt.”*

Pope John Paul II - December 8, 2003



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.



ANGEL GIVING TREE 2024

Gifts are due 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.



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

As we begin Advent we are called to “wait” in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives. Wherever you live in our parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell. Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul poor box will help the poor celebrate the grace of God’s love this Christmas.

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

SVDP DECEMBER “PRODUCT OF THE MONTH” LAUNDRY DETERGENT AND SOFTNER SHEETS



“ *We still make sinful choices. God seems to be only here and there; sin and selfishness everywhere in between. What can I do? What Mary did - say yes. Obey God’s laws of love; live up to the duties of my state in life. The world needs my day-by-day ‘Fiat.’ Mary is a model of what God expects of me.* ”

- Fr. Patrick Peyton
From his book,
Father Peyton’s Rosary Prayer Book



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.



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.

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