



DECEMBER 29, 2024
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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	12/30	8:30 AM	Kori & Noah Collins
Tue	12/31	6:00 PM	(Holy Day Vigil Mass) Parishioners of SFA
Wed	1/1	9:00 AM	(Holy Day Mass) Parishioners of SFA
Thu	1/2	8:30 AM	Cary Peña
Fri	1/3	8:30 AM	Poor Souls in Purgatory
Sat	1/4	4:00 PM	Gloria Lutfy
Sun	1/5	9:00 AM	Michael Harwell

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, 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, Sue Wood

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 honor of Ron and Charlie Graham on their 30th Wedding Anniversary. 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.



A Prayer for the New Year

*Lord,
whether I leave behind a year of joy
or of trials and difficulties,
I pause to give thanks.*

*Thank you for being with me
every day of every year.*

*Thank you for making all things new
and for giving me
the grace of fresh starts
and new beginnings.*

*Remind me of your presence
in the days to come,
even when I feel pushed
and rushed by busyness.*

Be glorified in my life this year.

- Amen -

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	12/30	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	12/31	6:00 PM	Holy Day Vigil Mass
Wed	1/1	9:00 AM	Holy Day Mass
		5:00 PM	SVdP - PRC
Thu	1/2		
Fri	1/3	9:00 AM	Adoration & Healing Svc.
Sat	1/4	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	1/5	9:00 AM	Mass

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



PASTOR'S NOTES

Ten years ago, I had the opportunity to attend the World's Family Encounter in Mexico City. More than ten thousand people gathered to discuss the (then) situation of the family in the world. There were representatives from the Hierarchy of the Church, Government, and families from the whole world.

For two weeks, we heard many different opinions, and statistics about families in the world. From what was said there, there were two phrases that still ring in my ear: "Without family, there is no future." The other one is, "if we want to save humanity, we need to save the family." And I would add another one: "If we want to save the family, we need to save the Sacrament of Marriage."

On this Sunday, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. The focus today is on the family. This Sunday it would be important to pay attention to all of the readings. Taken together they better express the meaning of this feast.

Following Christmas, there is an entire week of liturgical feasts called an Octave. The feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr (model of love for enemies and fearless witness of the faith) was on December 26. The feast of John the Apostle and Evangelist was celebrated on December 27. The feast of the Holy innocents, the children killed by Herod, occurs on December 28. Other martyrs' feasts are celebrated in the remaining days of the week.

Today's passage in the book of Sirach offers a commentary on the Fifth commandment – to honor one's parents. When one follows this commandment, a multitude of sins are forgotten. Family was a very important reality for Israel. So important that some scholars believe that the unity and lasting Jewish culture rely on the unity of their families. The easiest way to destroy a culture is by destroying the family unity. The Jewish culture has survived for more than eight thousand years: the clan, the family, the tribe, the extended family, the people of God, all represented a form of family that was in covenant relationship with Yahweh. Covenant relationships require a great respect and care for one another.

Psalm 128 insists that the prosperity of family and society begins with a basic fear of the Lord. Prosperity and harmony - as interchangeable terms - are possible only when a person lives in submission to God's will, loves God with heart and soul, and extends that love to others. All who do what is upright in God's eyes will be blessed with many children, contrary to our time where having many children is seen as a sign of ignorance or irresponsibility, even some people consider it disgraceful.

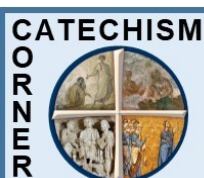
The importance of the family cannot be understated or underemphasized. The family is where we discover what it means to be human, what are our strengths and weaknesses, where we experience love and forgiveness, where we learn about relationships, unity, sacrifice, loving others, accepting others, where we learn values and attitudes and trust, and how to handle stress, and how to be responsible. Family is where we learn how to get along with one another. All these important learning tasks are hopefully learned in a family that is relatively healthy. By "relatively healthy," I mean none of our families are perfect. The success of a society depends on the health of the family. That creates a big burden for families to carry. It also puts a big burden on society to care about the family and to foster healthy families.

Today's gospel presents us with the Holy family of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus as the example to follow. The feast of the holy Family lifts up the family of Nazareth as a model for struggling Christian families.



Continued on next page

Today's Liturgy is a crucial beacon of hope for contemporary family systems. It serves as a reminder to live in the mystery of God's revelation in our lives, even when family experiences seem to prove the contrary. By making Galilee home, the Holy Family chose to live in the margins. In Galilee we find Jesus, who not only understood the difficulties of family life, but surely experienced them himself. As they chose to live on the margins, we are invited to not only care for the marginalized but move to the margins ourselves. And, as we find rejection in our lives, in Galilee we can find welcome and life in Christ Jesus. Both Mary and Joseph serve as models who were willing to accept the ambiguity that life always presents. They remind us that if we ponder the marvels of God in our hearts and watch God's plan unfold in our lives, we will look back on our lives and discern the mighty hand of God in even the most trying situations.



Well, here we are at the end of the secular calendar year.....I don't know about you, but I'm having difficulty coming to terms again with another year – gone! Today, though, we are celebrating a very special Feast....please read on.

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is normally celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas within the Roman Catholic Church as well as in many Lutheran and Anglican churches, in honor of Jesus of Nazareth, his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and his foster father, Saint Joseph, as a family. The primary purpose of this feast is to present the Holy Family as a "true model of life" for Christian families from which our families can draw inspiration and know where to find help and comfort. *vaticannews.va*

Today's Feast of the Holy Family is more than a celebration of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph; it's an opportunity to reflect on and sanctify our own family units. The concept of the "domestic church" encourages Christians to make Christ and His Church central to family and individual life. This can be achieved through practices like reading scripture, praying, attending Mass, and imitating the Holy Family.

The Holy Family, consisting of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, is a central figure in Christian tradition. Although the Canonical Scriptures provide limited information about their life, including significant events like Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, their flight to Egypt, and Jesus being found in the temple, these texts leave many details unexplored. To fill these gaps, non-canonical texts like the Infancy Gospel of Thomas offer stories, but these have not been accepted into the canon.

Despite these gaps in the historical record, the Holy Family has become an important symbol in Christian devotion, particularly since the 17th century. This devotion was further institutionalized when Pope Benedict XV, in 1921, established the Feast of the Holy Family in the Latin Rite general calendar, a practice previously confined to regional observance. The Feast, celebrated on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Day, emphasizes the Holy Family as a model for Christian families and domestic life. If Christmas and New Year's Day are both Sundays, the Feast is observed on December 30th, but attendance is not mandatory. Before 1969, it was celebrated on the first Sunday after Epiphany. *ucatholic.com*

An important thought for this day is that the Feast of the Holy Family serves as a time to appreciate and pray for our families, both human and spiritual. It's also an occasion to assess our family life, considering how it might be improved and how we can foster family values in our communities.

If you have any questions for the "Corner or would like to write a "Corner," please contact me at jdewtn2018@att.net.

Have a most peaceful week St. Francis!





“ But no one understands the beauty of a hidden life more than the Holy Family, which is why I know Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are at my side daily to help me appreciate its treasures. ”

—Lindsay Younce Tsohantaridis

quoted in the book, *Soul Garden: A Catholic Mothers' Collective*



Christmas Flowers

The Christmas Flowers that beautifully decorate our altar this year during the Christmas season have been donated by several parishioners in memory or in honor of someone they know.

In Memory of

Lois & Elmer Szekely
Lois Zehnder
George Szekely
Edward Szekely
Mary Sellers
Raymond & Dorothy Simons
Molly Pickett
Margaret Jordan
Judy Compton
Normand & Terese Messier
Ed Murphy
Virginia Ann Welsh
Norman & Lucille Weiland
Herma & Ralph Psychal
Mario & Natilye Bummara
Catherine Kirkham

Ada Fain-Fendley
Marion E. Ganley
Jack Troupe
Philip Psychal
Kathleen Denning
Berry Rytel
Joseph & Marlena Rytel
Joe & Martioca Rytel
Ralph & Irene Meyerkord
Jesse & Gloria Colvin
Ted & Violet Jastrab
John & Theresa Peacock
Bernard & Loretta Eberhardt
Raymond & Joann Nieman
Paul & Sharon Durm

Deceased members of the Nenadovich Family
Deceased members of the Wilson Family
Friends of Kathy Davis: Sue, Shelby & Lia
Betty & Frank Czerniewski
Betty & Joe Tkatch
Charles Fiorella
Grace & Charles Hearth
Ruthie McCarley
Dick H.
Dick C.
The Harbit & Davis Families
The Provenzo Family
Mr & Mrs. P. J. Scholsser
Gabriel Ruiz
Jesse Fendley

In Honor of:

Sr. Millicent Zimmer
Fr. Anthony Mulderry
Fr. Antonio Giraldo
Fr. Eric Zeeger
Claire Martin



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

VIGIL MASS: TUESDAY, 12/31 - 6:00 PM

HOLY DAY MASS: WEDNESDAY, 1/1 - 9:00 AM

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION - 1/3/2025



“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.



**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)

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

*St. Pio of Pietrelcina
(Padre Pio)
(1887 - 1968)*

*“A thousand years
of enjoying human glory
is not worth
even an hour
spent sweetly communing
with Jesus
in the Blessed Sacrament.”*



Eucharisticrevival.org



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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



Our RCIA classes are taking a Christmas break and will resume on Tuesday, January 7, 2025. 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: sfdeacon7717@gmail.com OR 901-493-2123.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and so we can celebrate that we all belong to the holy family of God which makes us brothers and sisters to each other. At Christmas this year, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring the joy and hope to our “brothers and sisters” who are poor by assisting many local families, providing them with food, and assisting them with various bills. Thank you!

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 JANUARY “PRODUCT OF THE MONTH” SOUP



DEACON HAROLD BURKE-SIVERS

“The Dynamic Deacon”

Dc. Harold Burke-Sivers
will be speaking at
St. John Neumann Catholic Church
in Farragut, TN on

**Friday 1/3/25 at 6 PM and
Saturday 1/4/25 at 10 AM**

Friday’s talk will be a family talk - all ages are welcome - with a theme of “Go and Make Disciples: The Call to Evangelization.” Saturday’s talk will be geared toward Men: “Putting on the Armor of God: Preparing for Spiritual Combat.” For more information about Deacon Harold and the Mustang Dads Club, please visit

www.deaconharold.com
www.mustangdads.org

Ticket information can be obtained
by scanning the QR codes
on the poster in Shea Hall.

FAITH AND FUN WITH FRIENDS

A Special (**FREE**) Event for ALL Catholic Women
sponsored by
The Knoxville Diocesan Conference of Catholic
Women (DCCW)
and the Cumberland Mountain CCW Deanery



Sunday, January 26, 2025 - 1:30 PM

St. Mary’s Catholic Church (Gymnasium) Oak Ridge
Prayer Service at 2:00 PM

A Sisterhood of Saints, by Carrie Manabet
San Miguel Dancers
Fun, Refreshments, Prizes
Closing Prayer at 4:00 PM

Contact Jan at janscobey@gmail.com by January
20th to confirm attendance or scan QR code on the
poster in Shea Hall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
1/3 & 4/2025	"The Dynamic Deacon" - The Call to Evangelization (6PM and 10AM) St. John Neumann - Farragut, TN	Online: www.mustangdads.org E-mail: beaubroussard@protonmail.com QRcode: See flyer in Shea Hall
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

JANUARY 4 & 5 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



END OF THE YEAR DONATIONS

Per IRS RULES: If you are considering a 2024 donation to St. Francis of Assisi Church for tax purposes, checks must be dated 2024 AND received at the parish office no later than December 31st.

If you are mailing in a donation, the envelope **MUST BE POSTMARKED** no later than December 31st.

Checks or cash received or postmarked after December 31st will be recorded as 2025 gifts. Thank you for considering our beautiful little church on the river as a recipient of your financial gift!