



**DECEMBER 8, 2024
SECOND 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 12/9 8:30 AM Charlie Graham
Tue 12/10 8:30 AM Clarence Keeven
Wed 12/11 **NO MASS**
Thu 12/12 8:30 AM Poor Souls in Purgatory
Fri 12/13 8:30 AM Camille Sattler
Sat 12/14 4:00 PM Monica Nouhan
Sun 12/15 9:00 AM Jan Dye

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**



Eucharisticrevival.org

*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."*

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon 12/9 9:00 AM Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue 12/10 9:15 AM Lectio Divina
 4:00 PM RCIA Class - PRC
Wed 12/11 1:00 PM Bible Study - PRC
Thu 12/12
Fri 12/13
Sat 12/14 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
Sun 12/15 9:00 AM Mass

**CATECHISM
CORNER**



Happy second weekend of Advent St. Francis! Here's a couple of tidbits I'd like to share about the Advent Wreath: **The CIRCLE:** The shape of the wreath signifies eternity, for a circle has no beginning or end. God has no beginning and no end; His love is everlasting and universal. **The EVERGREEN:** Evergreens are used since this particular tree is always green, symbolizing life and growth. Green is the color of hope; it is a sign of our hope and belief that the Savior has come for us.

Dear St. Francis of Assisi parishioners and visitors, you will see that the second candle on the Advent Wreath will be lit this weekend. It is called the Bethlehem Candle. This candle reminds us of the time when Jesus came to earth as a baby and was born in the small city of Bethlehem. This candle also reminds us that Jesus promised to come again. (Luke 21:27-28)

Today's Mystery of the Rosary that I would like to share is the Visitation, which is the Second Joyful Mystery! Bishop Robert Barron comments in his prelude to the Second Joyful Mystery: "I've always been fascinated by Mary's haste in the story of her visitation to Elizabeth. Upon hearing the message of Gabriel concerning her own pregnancy and that of her cousin, Mary, we hear, preceded in haste into the Hill Country of Judah to see Elizabeth. Why does she go with such speed and purpose? Because she had found her mission. Her role in the Theo drama. We are dominated today by the Ego drama and all of its ramifications and implications. The Ego drama is the play that I'm writing, I'm producing, I'm directing, and above all that, I'm starring in. We see this absolutely everywhere in our culture. Freedom of choice reigns supreme. I become the person that I choose to be. But the Theo drama is the great story being told by God. The great play being directed by God. What makes life thrilling is to discover your role in that drama and this is precisely what happened to Mary. She's found her role – indeed a climactic role – in the Theo drama and she wants to commune with Elizabeth who has also discovered her role in that same drama."

When you recite the second decade of the Rosary, please reflect and contemplate on what God reveals to us in the mystery of the visitation. Bishop Robert Barron concludes his prelude to the Second Joyful Mystery with: "Have you searched for your place in God's story - abandoning the ego drama for the Theo drama with a response as bold and simple as Mary's?"

Next week will "talk" about the Third Joyful Mystery – the Nativity! Enjoy your Second Week of Advent St. Francis!



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.



*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.

*“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



“The mass is the great act of contemplation. Mary herself is the great contemplative. I try to stress very strongly that the Christ in Bethlehem is the Christ of Galilee, the Christ of the crucifixion, and the Christ of the resurrection is the Christ of the Eucharist; it is the same Christ. It is the same Mary that gave us the Christ child of Bethlehem, who gives us the Eucharistic Christ and the holy sacrifice of the Mass. We almost blithely use the words in the Hail Mary: *Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.* We could well afford to use these words at the moment of Holy Communion. This is the fruit of the womb of Mary that we are receiving. That's the Eucharistic Christ, the same Christ that was born in Bethlehem, the fruit of the womb of Mary.”

- Cardinal O'Connor

12/2/24 Podcast Episode - How Mary Opens the Gates to Christ



“ At the moment of the Visitation, therefore, the human form of Jesus was incredibly young, only a few days, maybe a week... And yet, John, the little prophet - six months older, it is true - jumped for joy at his arrival! If doctors nowadays reread this Gospel passage, they would understand with their hearts that science does not deceive them when it forces them, by reason, to acknowledge that **being** starts at conception. ”

- Dr. Jérôme Lejeune

From his book, Jérôme Lejeune: A Man of Science and Conscience



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord," and this is what Advent is all about. We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need. Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate 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



DEACON HAROLD BURKE-SIVERS

"The Dynamic Deacon"



Dr. Harold Burke-Sivers will be speaking at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Faragut, 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.



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.

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)

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
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
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



CCETN
OFFICE OF
IMMIGRANT SERVICES

SECOND COLLECTION ON DECEMBER 14 & 15, 2024

A collection to assist Catholic Charities of East TN Office of Immigrant Services will be taken up at the weekend Masses on December 14th and 15th.

The Office of Immigrant Services provides low bono immigration legal services to the immigrant and refugee communities of East Tennessee. Our services include family reunification, naturalization and citizenship, humanitarian services such as asylum and services for unaccompanied minors, relief for survivors of domestic violence, trafficking and other crimes and much more. Our office also offers informational sessions to educate the immigrant and non-immigrant communities of East Tennessee.

Your generous gift will help Catholic Charities of East Tennessee in their important work throughout our diocese.