



**JANUARY 12, 2025**  
**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**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**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>PASTOR</b> .....Rev. Antonio Giraldo<br><b>DEACON</b> .....Deacon Jim Schmall<br><b>OFFICE MANAGER</b> .....Kathy Meyerkord<br><b>BOOKKEEPER</b> .....Kathleen Halligan<br><b>LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTOR</b> .....JoAnne Romer-Aylward<br><b>DIR. OF RELIGIOUS ED.</b> .....Julie Dew<br><b>RCIA/OCIA</b> .....Bruce Boudin<br><b>ART &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b> .....Norene O'Donnell | <b>GARDENS &amp; GROUNDS</b> .....Ilene Rainwater<br><b>FACILITIES</b> .....David Girard<br><b>SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE</b> .....JoAnne Romer-Aylward<br><b>PASTORAL CARE</b> .....Suzie Fay<br><b>ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP</b> .....Camilla Sorrell<br><b>COLUMBARIUM</b> .....Bob Eberhardt<br><b>WELCOMING, EVENTS &amp;</b> .....All Parishioners<br><b>SOCIALS TEAM (WEST)</b> |
|--|--|

**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](mailto: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.)

|            |             |         |                        |
|------------|-------------|---------|------------------------|
| <b>Mon</b> | <b>1/13</b> | 8:30 AM | Dan & Kathy Meyerkord  |
| <b>Tue</b> | <b>1/14</b> | 8:30 AM | Ralph Meyerkord        |
| <b>Wed</b> | <b>1/15</b> |         | <b>NO MORNING MASS</b> |
| <b>Thu</b> | <b>1/16</b> | 8:30 AM | Gloria Lutfy           |
| <b>Fri</b> | <b>1/17</b> | 8:30 AM | Logan Bell             |
| <b>Sat</b> | <b>1/18</b> | 4:00 PM | Loretta Bailey         |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>1/19</b> | 9:00 AM | Kathleen McCormick     |

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.

## COMMUNION SERVICES JANUARY 13 THROUGH JANUARY 28

Fr. Antonio will be away from January 13th through January 28th. While he is away, Dc. Jim will be offering communion services on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Our visiting Priest for the January 18-19 weekend Masses will be Fr. Joe Austin from Our Lady of Fatima in Alcoa, TN. Our visiting Priest for the January 25-26 weekend Masses will be Fr. James Nobles from Cross Catholic Outreach.



**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:** 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.



### ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

|            |             |         |                        |
|------------|-------------|---------|------------------------|
| <b>Mon</b> | <b>1/13</b> | 9:00 AM | Church & Hall Cleaning |
| <b>Tue</b> | <b>1/14</b> | 4:00 PM | RCIA - PRC             |
| <b>Wed</b> | <b>1/15</b> | 5:00 PM | SVdP - PRC             |
| <b>Thu</b> | <b>1/16</b> | NOON    | WEST Mtg. - Shea Hall  |
| <b>Fri</b> | <b>1/17</b> |         |                        |
| <b>Sat</b> | <b>1/18</b> | 4:00 PM | Vigil Mass             |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>1/19</b> | 9:00 AM | Mass                   |

## BAPTISM - A BRIDGE BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH



### PASTOR'S NOTES

This is the last weekend of the Christmas Season. Most people have their Christmas decorations down by now – except the Church. The church continues to celebrate the feast of Christmas and Epiphany until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which we celebrate this Sunday.

God began to reveal his Son to the world with the coming of the magi, but for those who came to Mass during this past week, each day's gospel tried to show the uniqueness of Jesus.

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Our first thought might be to ask why Jesus was baptized. He was free from sin, so he had no need of the baptism of repentance that John led people to accept. Through his baptism, Jesus opened the waters of baptism for us, creating a bridge between heaven and earth, a way for us to be plunged into his life, death, and resurrection. With the Baptism of the Lord, God reveals that Jesus is filled with the Spirit and is God's beloved Son with whom God is greatly pleased.

After years of waiting and preparing, the time had come for Jesus to take up his mission. No longer would he remain hidden away in Nazareth, quietly plying his trade as a carpenter. Now was the time to play his part in the Father's plan, the time to announce and to inaugurate the kingdom of God. Now was the time for healings, exorcisms, preaching, and teaching.

This great kingdom was not to begin with a blare of trumpets or a mighty demonstration of miracles. It would begin not in glory, but in humility, as Jesus submitted himself to a baptism of repentance. He, the sinless one, would heed the Baptizer's call to sinners. The one who had been clothed in glory would bow to one clothed in rough garments. He, the righteous one, would identify himself with sinners to fulfill all righteousness.

Mathew said that when Jesus came up out of the water, the Spirit descended on him and the Father testified of him, declaring him to be his "beloved Son," and that he was "well pleased" with him. By recounting Jesus' baptism in this way, Mathew emphasized Jesus' role as the servant of the Lord identified in Isaiah's prophecy. Like this servant, Jesus had come to "bring forth justice," to open blind eyes, and to release prisoners. Even more importantly, like the servant of the Lord, he had come to make a sin offering of himself, bearing others' sins and interceding for their forgiveness.

In Romans and Galatians, Paul said that at our baptism we were baptized into Christ. Jesus' baptism was our baptism as well. Just as the Spirit descended on Jesus, so too the Spirit comes upon us when we are baptized. Just as the Father declared Jesus to be his beloved Son, we too become beloved sons and daughters of God at our baptism. Just as Jesus took up his commission as a servant, we too are called to lay down our lives for the up-building of the kingdom.

Confident in the Spirit's anointing and filled with the humility of Christ, let us take up our high calling to serve our Father with the joy and abandonment of dearly loved sons and daughters.



## CATECHISM

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### AMBOS, AND LECTERNS, AND PULPITS, OH MY!

Happy Baptism of the Lord, St. Francis of Assisi! To begin to “talk” about different questions concerning the Mass, let’s first reflect on the structure of the Mass. The Mass is made up, as it were, of two main parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. These, however, are so closely interconnected that they form but one single act of worship. [GIRM pg. 19.] The Mass is the GREATEST prayer of the

Church! In addition, there are also certain rites that open and conclude this great celebration. (Remember, I’ve written about the four parts of the Mass before!)

Well, the first question I received is “What can be proclaimed or said from the “lectern” which is properly called the ambo?” Here’s a little history for you: Ambo (pl. Ambos, or Ambones), is a word of Greek origin, supposed to signify a mountain or elevation. Take a moment and reflect on Isaiah 54:10. This Greek word also has a meaning of ‘both.’ This is to symbolize the readings from both, the ambo and the lectern. Ambones are believed to have taken their origin from the raised platform from which the Jewish rabbis read the Scriptures to the people, and they were first introduced into churches during the fourth century. In the 1200s, there were two ambones and they were “two-stories high.” The lower one was used for reading/proclaiming the Epistle, and the upper one was used for reading/proclaiming the Gospel. They were known as “double-deckers.” Makes sense, right?

The ambo is stationary and was designed for the minister of the Word only. This is where the minister of the Word proclaims from the Old Testament, from the book of Psalms (the Responsorial Psalm), where the Priest or Deacon proclaims the Gospel, delivers the homily, and leads the Universal Prayer. On the other hand, a lectern (such as that of the cantor lectern or the lectern at the Priest’s chair in our church) is movable and intended for any non-scripture “deliveries” to the congregation.

As far as the question is concerned, there are very particular guidelines/rules regarding what can be proclaimed or said from the ambo: Scripture is to be proclaimed from the ambo and non-scripture elements (announcements, commentaries, appeals, etc...) are to be delivered from a lectern or another suitable area in the church. But our beautiful little church building has only one high-visibility area for any kind of proclamation/commentaries/special announcements - the ambo on the altar. Granted, Mass commentaries should not be delivered from the ambo, but because Mass commentaries need to be delivered from a location in the church where the congregation can hear and see the minister delivering the commentary, the ambo is the only reasonable place in our church building - same with appeals and special announcements.

The ambo is still the official Catholic term for the place where the Gospel (technically ALL scripture) is read. In common speech, ambos are incorrectly called pulpits, a Protestant word. There are no pulpits in the Catholic Church. The pulpit is not a Catholic word.

I have a very good friend who is a priest, and he could recite many Gospels from memory. People would marvel at his memory, but then ask me, does the priest (or deacon) have to read directly from the Book of the Gospels? I know people don’t like book response answers, but according to the GIRM, the priest is to take the Book of the Gospels to the ambo and then proclaim the Gospel. While it’s implied that the priest reads from the text, there’s no written requirement. However, he is required to have the text in front of him when he recites the Gospel. For more information read GIRM 133-134. Have a blessed week St. Francis!





## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

After Jesus was baptized, he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and a voice was heard "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." As we give to the poor, we also can hear these same words. As you help those who are suffering, know in your heart the truth of the words "you are my beloved in whom I am well pleased".

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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
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



### ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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

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

*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."*



Eucharisticrevival.org

### 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

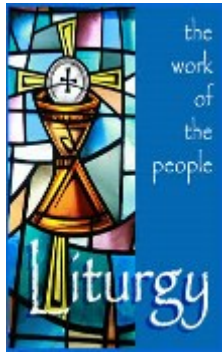
A Sisterhood of Saints, by Carrie Manabet

San Miguel Dancers

Fun, Refreshments, Prizes

Closing Prayer at 4:00 PM

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



## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES QUARTERLY SIGN-UPS FOR FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL

It is time for Liturgical Ministries signup! The signup sheets are on the counter in Shea Hall. Please take a few minutes after Mass this weekend and next to sign up for your ministry/ministries.

If you would like more information about our Liturgical Ministries, please check out our website, the bulletin board in Shea Hall or contact one of our ministry heads:

|               |                  |              |                            |
|---------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Lectors       | Martha Frink     | 865-556-4684 | marthafrink00@gmail.com    |
| EMHC*         | Karen Messenger  | 225-572-9400 | komessenger@gmail.com      |
| Ushers        | Paul Czerniewski | 847-877-7347 | paul.czerniewski@gmail.com |
| Sacristans    | Kathy Meyerkord  | 630-698-5563 | kmmeyerkord@gmail.com      |
| Altar Servers | Dan Meyerkord    | 708-846-4144 | dkam27@sbcglobal.net       |

\* Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

## Share YOUR Faith



Support the Church in  
Latin America

[uscgb.org/latin-america](http://uscgb.org/latin-america)

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## NATIONAL COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA JANUARY 25 & 26

A second collection will be taken up at the weekend Masses on January 25 & 26 in support of the pastoral work of the Church in the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America, and South America. Your donation will assist the bishops, priests and religious in countries such as Haiti, El Salvador and Chile in their work of evangelization, the formation of seminarians and religious, catechesis, and youth ministry. Thank you for our generosity in support of the Church in Latin America.



“ Everyone who breathes, high and low, educated and ignorant, young and old, man and woman, has a mission, has a work. God sees every one of us; He creates every soul, for a purpose. ”

- Saint John Neumann



## WELCOMING EVENTS & SOCIAL TEAM MEETING

### Thursday, January 16, 2025

### NOON in Shea Hall

If you are a member of this parish, you are automatically a member of this team! 😊  
Please come and join in the Spring and Summer planning activities for our parish! Some activities that are being discussed are a Cinco de Mayo potluck, a visit to the Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel Exhibition, and February's Concert with Esteban, Laura and Christian! Please come and join with your parish family in the planning activities. A light lunch will be served.

Bishop Mark Beckman & The Office of Marriage & Enrichment  
invites couples to celebrate together

# The Sacrament of Matrimony

February  
23

4  
p.m.



Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus • 711 S. Northshore Drive • Knoxville TN 37919

The married couples will have the opportunity to reaffirm their marriage vows during mass and receive a blessing to go out to the world and give testimony to their call to the vocation of marriage.

[Register Here](#)  
Online or use the  
QR code by  
February 9, 2025



The Diocese of Knoxville  
Office of Marriage Preparation & Enrichment



Questions?  
ckrings@dioknox.org  
phone: 865-862-5739

## JUBILEE 2025

Jubilee Year 2025, themed “Pilgrims of Hope,” began Dec. 24, 2024, with the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica, and will conclude Jan. 6, 2026. This year of grace offers the Catholic faithful an opportunity for spiritual renewal, emphasizing themes of forgiveness, reconciliation and the universal call to holiness.

The practice of a jubilee year has ancient roots in the Jewish tradition and evidence for it can be found in the Old Testament. The jubilee was called every 50 years and was a time for forgiveness and a reminder of God’s providence and mercy.

The dedication of a year for this emphasis provided the community with a time to come back into right relationship with one another and with God. As the practice of the jubilee year was adopted into the Church, these themes of mercy, forgiveness, and solidarity continued.

**Continued on next page**



## 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](mailto: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.



## THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven,  
may the faith you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our  
brother, and the flame of charity  
enkindled in our hearts by the

Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

*Franciscus*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

| DATE           | EVENT   | DETAILS  |
|----------------|---|--|
| 1/16/2025      | WEST Meeting<br>12 Noon Shea Hall   | Online: N/A<br>E-mail: stfrancistownsend7717@gmail.com<br>Phone: 865-448-6070                                |
| 1/26/2025      | Faith and Fun with Friends<br>A Diocesan CCW Event                              | Online: Scan QR code on poster in Shea Hall<br>E-mail: janscobey@gmail.com<br>Phone: N/A                     |
| 2/21/2025      | Esteban Salazar & Friends in Concert<br>Church and Hall                         | Online: N/A<br>E-mail: joannera.726@gmail.com<br>Phone: 859-361-4561   |
| 2/23/2025      | Celebrate Your Marriage<br>4:00 PM Mass at the Cathedral with<br>Bishop Beckman | Online: Scan QR code on poster in Shea Hall<br>E-mail: ckrings@dioknox.org<br>Phone: 865-862-5739            |
| 9/29-10/9/2025 | 11-Day Jubilee Pilgrimage to the<br>Shrines of Italy with Fr. Bill McNeeley     | Online: Scan QR code on poster in Shea Hall<br>E-mail: ascensiontourstravel@gmail.com<br>Phone: 800-351-9893 |

(Continued from previous page)

Jubilee years celebrated in the Catholic Church focus on specific themes aimed to draw people closer to the Lord and bring about a renewal of faith and forgiveness in the world. The theme of the Jubilee year of 2025 is "Pilgrims of Hope."

To learn more about the Jubilee year of 2025, including a calendar of events, plenary indulgences, letter from Pope Francis, how to obtain a Pilgrim's Card, Cultural events, and much more, here are just a few websites that provide useful information:

- The Vatican..... <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>
- National Catholic Register..... <https://www.ncregister.com/news/jubilee-2025-indulgences>
- Diocese of Knoxville..... <https://dioknox.org/jubilee>
- EWTN Global Catholic Network..... <https://missions.ewtn.com/jubilee/>
- USCCB <https://www.usccb.org/jubilee2025>  
(United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

