



# JANUARY 19, 2025 SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**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	<b>GARDENS &amp; GROUNDS</b> .....Ilene Rainwater
<b>DEACON</b> .....Deacon Jim Schmall	<b>FACILITIES</b> .....David Girard
<b>OFFICE MANAGER</b> .....Kathy Meyerkord	<b>SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE</b> .....JoAnne Romer-Aylward
<b>BOOKKEEPER</b> .....Kathleen Halligan	<b>PASTORAL CARE</b> .....Suzie Fay
<b>LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTOR</b> .....JoAnne Romer-Aylward	<b>ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP</b> .....Camilla Sorrell
<b>DIR. OF RELIGIOUS ED.</b> .....Julie Dew	<b>COLUMBARIUM</b> .....Bob Eberhardt
<b>RCIA/OCIA</b> .....Bruce Boudin	<b>WELCOMING, EVENTS &amp;</b> .....All Parishioners
<b>ART &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b> .....Norene O'Donnell	<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 [sfabulletin7717@gmail.com](mailto:sfabulletin7717@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>1/20</b>	8:30 AM	Grace Harth
<b>Tue</b>	<b>1/21</b>	8:30 AM	Ed Welsh
<b>Wed</b>	<b>1/22</b>	<b>NO MORNING MASS</b>	
<b>Thu</b>	<b>1/23</b>	8:30 AM	Poor Souls in Purgatory
<b>Fri</b>	<b>1/24</b>	8:30 AM	Hollis Bridier
<b>Sat</b>	<b>1/25</b>	4:00 PM	Loretta, Ron & Bob Eberhardt
<b>Sun</b>	<b>1/26</b>	9:00 AM	Bob Frink

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:** *The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week for the healing for Sharon McKune given by the St. Vincent de Paul Organization.* 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>1/20</b>	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
<b>Tue</b>	<b>1/21</b>	4:00 PM	RCIA - PRC
<b>Wed</b>	<b>1/22</b>		
<b>Thu</b>	<b>1/23</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>1/24</b>		
<b>Sat</b>	<b>1/25</b>	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>1/26</b>	9:00 AM	Mass



## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

We have a visiting priest this weekend, but I wanted to share with you some thoughts on marriage. This year, my wife and I will celebrate our 29th wedding anniversary. It is hard to believe! We came together rather late in life. We had both been divorced and had kids of our own so when our families were blended, to say there were challenges would be an understatement. But here we are 29 years later and still going strong. Of the four kids between us three remain and are adults now. A son and two daughters. Sadly, our youngest daughter passed away over three years ago now. But between the four of them Lesa and I

have seven grandchildren. It is such a joy to see your kids grow up and become the people they were meant to be. And grandkids are pretty cool too!

In spite of the many things my wife and I have learned about each other and about marriage over the years, we have both come to the realization that no matter how great your marriage is today, there is always room for improvement. There is always a place for us to give God more control in our relationship with our spouse.

Some time ago, I read a story about a couple who celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Ted and Bessie were in their seventies. Ted had lost much of his hearing during this time. And yet they were still getting along together and celebrating this great milestone. Their rather large family came from all over and enjoyed celebrating together through the midmorning into the afternoon. Finally, toward sundown, all the family went home. Bessie and Ted decided to walk out on the front porch and sit down on the swing and watch the sunset. The old gentleman pulled his tie loose and leaned back and didn't say much. Bessie looked at him somewhat in wonder and said to him, "You know, Ted, I'm real proud of you." The old gentleman turned and looked at her rather quizzically and after a moment said, with a puzzled look on his face, "Well, Bessie, I'm real tired of you too!"

So why the Wedding Feast to start His ministry? Because of the importance of the Sacrament of Marriage, and because of the importance of His mother. She intercedes for us. If God does not answer your prayers, talk to Mary she knows how to get His attention. Peter Kreeft says that "Mary is the neck that can turn the Head."

God wants marriages to be strong. He wants them to last. He wants them to be a reflection of His relationship with His redeemed people. He wants them to bring glory to His name. How can we accomplish these things? As married couples we should be willing to:

1. Help each other
2. Listen to each other
3. Learn from each other
4. Allow our spouse to correct us

That last one was particularly difficult for me. Just ask my wife. But over the years I have come to value her good judgement and wisdom. The point is then that all of our actions should be out of love and respect for Christ, His Blessed Mother, and for each other. Amen.



Our RCIA classes meet on Tuesdays in the Parish Resource Center (PRC) at 4:00 PM. 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 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](mailto:sfadeacon7717@gmail.com) OR 901-493-2123.



Welcome to this week's Catechism Corner where we will "talk" about the liturgy of the Word and our postural response/behavior during other parts of the Mass."

We proclaim the scripture readings during Mass very reverently and the silence that is allowed between readings is not only helpful, but necessary to promote meditation. The GIRM 45 states: "Sacred silence also, as part of the celebration, is to be observed at the designated times. Its nature, however, depends on the moment when it occurs in the different parts of the celebration. For in the Penitential Act and again after the invita-

tion to pray, individuals recollect themselves; whereas after a reading or after the Homily, all meditate briefly on what they have heard; then after Communion, they praise God in their hearts and pray to him." I LOVE the silence between our readings/responsorial psalm. I've been to churches where it's like a race to see who can have the fastest Mass! Even before the celebration itself, it is a praiseworthy practice for silence to be observed in the church, in the sacristy, in the vesting room, and in adjacent areas, so that all may dispose themselves to carry out the sacred celebration in a devout and fitting manner.

Here at St. Francis, there are members who like to recite the Rosary before Mass – a most beautiful prayer and meditative way to prepare for Mass. But because of the design of our building, the conversations in Shea Hall frequently interferes with this devotion. Understand, we are all about building community! Try to remember there is a time and place for this community building.

My Protestant friends say that at Mass we do "Catholic Calisthenics!" You know, stand, sit, kneel, stand, kneel etc.! Being a cradle Catholic it's a no brainer for me, but I can understand how confusing it can be. And that is why I bring this up because in the last few years I've noticed there is some confusion as to when we are to stand at a certain point of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Particularly after the "presentation and preparation of the gifts." These gifts are collected for the poor and for the Church. Bread and wine are brought to the altar table, and everything is prepared for the celebration. If no chant is sung, the Priest may pray aloud, and all may respond: Blessed be God for ever. Usually, at weekend Mass there is music during this time in the liturgy. If you recollect, we in the pews, are seated. Then the Priest extends his hands and says a prayer (**we should still be seated!**) as the Priest concludes his prayer **THEN** we stand and respond: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church. (This is taken from the Missalette page 11. The one in the pews have everything we do, say, and sing in it!)

I've noticed that people start to stand as the Priest is praying which makes it hard to hear and concentrate on what is being said. My former parish up north was having the same problem. The Church building there is very noisy because of tile instead of carpet and the ceiling is VERY tall. So, the Priest there raises his hands to pray and waits for all the noise to subside and continues. Is this right? Good question, so please read page 11 in the Missalette. It tells you the rubrics!

Next week we will "talk" about the orans posture during the Mass. Don't know what that is – stay tuned! Have a most wonderful winter week in our beautiful East Tennessee!



“*The liturgy is the means by which earthly time is inserted into the time of Jesus Christ and into its present. It is the turning point in the process of redemption. The Shepherd takes the lost sheep onto his shoulders and carries it home.*”

- Joseph Ratzinger (Benedict XVI)  
from his book, *The Spirit of the Liturgy*



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today, at the wedding feast in Cana, Jesus reveals himself to his disciples and they began to believe in him. Every day, God also gives us signs of his love and so we also can respond in faith and trust. Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul becomes a sign of God's love to those who are suffering and you give them reason to believe and to trust.

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



Eucharisticrevival.org

*Dorothy Day  
Servant of God  
(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 compan-  
ionship."*

### 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

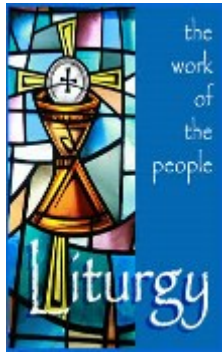
A Sisterhood of Saints, by Carrie Manabet

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)

Copyright © 2004 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

## 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.



## THE BISHOP'S APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES 2025

The Bishop's Appeal for Ministries begins with a mailing that many of our parishioners have received or will soon receive. Your gift not only funds many of the operations of the Diocese of Knoxville, but it also funds services that are of great help to the ministries here in our parish. Each Appeal gift enables the diocese to build up the kingdom of God throughout East Tennessee. God gives us all that we have. Even when we want to believe that our successes are self-made, we know that it is God who has blessed us abundantly with all we have. He is always giving to us. His grace is always there

for us. One way that we can show our gratitude is by offering our generous financial support to our parish and to our diocese and to the Church throughout the world. The gifts that we give enable ministries, education and services that touch thousands of lives.

Please make a commitment to the annual appeal. All pledges can be paid in ten installments. Thank you in advance for your support.

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
1/19-4/13/2025	GriefShare Weekly grief support group Highland Manor Inn - Townsend, TN	Online: GriefShare.org/findagroup E-mail: plsteele68@yahoo.com Phone: (text) 865-306-1956
1/26/2025	Faith and Fun with Friends A Diocesan CCW Event	Online: Scan QR code on poster in Shea Hall E-mail: janscobey@gmail.com Phone: N/A
2/21/2025	Esteban Salazar & Friends in Concert Church and Hall	Online: N/A E-mail: joannera.726@gmail.com Phone: 859-361-4561
2/23/2025	Celebrate Your Marriage 4:00 PM Mass at the Cathedral with Bishop Beckman	Online: Scan QR code on poster in Shea Hall E-mail: ckrings@dioknox.org Phone: 865-862-5739
2/28-3/2/2025	Retrouvaille - A lifeline for Marriages	Online: www.HelpOurMarriage.com E-mail: nrv3043@gmail.com Phone: 931-820-2115
3/22/2025	Women's Lenten Retreat 7:30 AM with Sarah Hart; Mass with Bishop Beckman	Online: See poster in Shea Hall; Scan QR Code Phone: 407-252-0320 (Karen Agnello) <b>OR:</b> Phone: 901-485-1965 (Amy Schaefer)
9/20-10/9/2025	11-Day Jubilee Pilgrimage to the Shrines of Italy with Fr. Bill McNeeley	Online: Scan QR code on poster in Shea Hall E-mail: ascensiontourstravel@gmail.com 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)

