



JANUARY 26, 2025
THIRD 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

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 & GROUNDS.....Ilene 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)

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 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	1/27	8:30 AM	Dang Thi (tee) Sinh (see)
Tue	1/28	8:30 AM	Brian Barker
Wed	1/29		NO MORNING MASS
Thu	1/30	8:30 AM	David Quinn
Fri	1/31	8:30 AM	Randall Barks
Sat	2/1	4:00 PM	Gloria Lutfy
Sun	2/2	9:00 AM	Therese Messier

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, James Hrom

SANCTUARY CANDLE: *The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week for the healing of Claire Andersen - donated by our 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.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY THROUGH 12/31/2024

Revenues.....	\$111,002.89
Expenses.....	\$109,167.33
Surplus.....	(\$1,835.56)

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	1/27	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	1/28	4:00 PM	RCIA - PRC
Wed	1/29		
Thu	1/30		
Fri	1/31		
Sat	2/1	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	2/2	9:00 AM	Mass



AN UNCONDITIONAL JOURNEY WITH JESUS

Once again, we have a visiting priest this weekend. Fr. Antonio will return next weekend. In the meantime, here are some thoughts on this week's Gospel for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. As we settle into ordinary time, the Sunday Gospel readings will come from Luke. Today he tells us that he has investigated the events of Jesus' time among us. He goes on to say that he wants to write them down for his friend Theophilus. He does this so that we will have a record of what Jesus has taught.

Luke's Gospel is written sixty or seventy years after our Lord's death. Up until then the only record of Jesus' life had been through word of mouth. Luke wanted to get the Word out - as it were - in order to attract new members. According to Luke, Jesus' public ministry began in a synagogue. We heard Jesus read from the prophet Isaiah and then tell the people that God is fulfilling this prophecy in him. He has just been anointed by the Spirit in his baptism in the Jordan. Now he comes to bring good news to all who trust in God's goodness. What he will say and what he will be doing is meant for those who have been suffering - captives, the blind, the oppressed. God has heard their cries and honors their faithful longing for salvation. God has sent Jesus to bring them liberty, recovery, freedom. He has come to proclaim a time that is God's. In Jesus, all who have waited will experience the loving-kindness, the mercy, and the compassion of God.

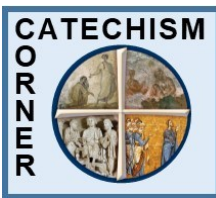
You and I suffer our own forms of captivity, blindness, and oppression. Have I, have you, been waiting for God? Do we trust in God's goodness and care for us? Luke reminds us: Jesus is God's loving-kindness, God's mercy, God's compassion, present among us. How is Jesus speaking to you, to me, in our suffering? What is he asking of me, of you? How is Jesus' gracious presence with me, with you, good news? How can his presence make a difference in the way you and I want to live today?

This is a year acceptable to the Lord. Jesus desires to love us and journey with us. Are you, am I, willing to make an unconditional journey with Jesus, trusting that he is leading us home to our Father's house? If we are, then let us make a conscious choice each day to call on Jesus often during the day and use the grace that he will surely give us.

Jesus' declaration in Luke 4:21 emphasizes the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. This underscores the reliability and divine inspiration of Scripture. By claiming the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, Jesus asserts His authority as the Messiah. Believers are called to recognize and submit to His authority in their lives. Despite the clear fulfillment of prophecy, Jesus faced skepticism and rejection in His hometown. This serves as a reminder that following Christ may lead to misunderstanding or rejection by those closest to us.



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 OR 901-493-2123.



Happy weekend and welcome to the Catechism Corner! More questions about the Mass and hopefully answers for you this week!

During Mass you may notice the priest will at times assume the orans posture, which is when his hands are raised and outstretched with elbows at his sides, especially during the prayer of the Our Father. (Remember I touched on this last week.) You may notice that some members of the Faithful may join the presider in such a gesture. Would it surprise you to learn that doing so is contrary to Church teaching?

Ok, now remember I came from South Florida with Charismatic Masses. I've experienced the raising of hands, dancing in the aisle, speaking in tongues and slain in the spirit (where one would fall to the ground)! I even had a priest who instructed the people in the pews to reach across the aisle during the Our Father to hold hands – a BIG NO, NO!

Orans - from the Medieval Latin word “ōrāns” meaning one who is praying or pleading - is a posture of prayer where one standing has their hands outstretched sideways palms up, with their elbows close to the body. The Orans is seen as an ancient Christian symbol of a soul in union with God interceding on behalf of mankind, frequently depicted in Early Christian art in a gesture reminiscent of Christ's outstretched arms as He offered Himself on the Cross.

For centuries, the Our Father has been a pivotal part of Mass, taking place during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. However, because of language barriers and the development of rubrics, the Our Father was traditionally a prayer said by the presider on behalf of the congregation, **not with them**. Please note any prayer offered up to God by the priest is done assuming the orans position.

Liturgical reforms promulgated by Pope Pius XII on September 3, 1958 granted permission for the lay faithful to join the priest in praying the Our Father. However, no prescriptions were made for the lay faithful to join the priest in the orans position, instead they are to remain standing with hands folded in prayer. “Since the Pater Noster is a fitting and ancient prayer of preparation for Communion, the entire congregation may recite this prayer in unison with the priest in low Masses; the Amen at the end is to be said by all.” – Instruction on Sacred Music and Sacred Liturgy § 32 – uCatholic.com

The Church seems to be relatively silent on this matter. However, just because the Church is silent does not mean something is permitted. After all, no document states the laity cannot stand on their heads for the Our Father during Mass, yet we would universally consider it inappropriate to do so! The Sacramentary of the Roman Missal states the presider is to pray the Our Father with hands extended.

The above states the faithful are not to use any gesture reserved for the presider – which would include the orans posture.

We can look to Pope Saint John Paul II in 1997 for clarification where he delivered instructions “On Certain Questions Regarding the Collaboration of the Non-Ordained Faithful in the Sacred Ministry of Priest: Practical Provisions.” The late pontiff said: “In eucharistic celebrations deacons and non-ordained members of the faithful may not pronounce prayers - e.g. especially the eucharistic prayer, with its concluding doxology – or any other parts of the liturgy reserved to the celebrant priest. Neither may deacons or non-ordained members of the faithful use gestures or actions which are proper to the same priest celebrant. It is a grave abuse for any member of the non-ordained faithful to “quasi preside” at the Mass while leaving only that minimal participation to the priest which is necessary to secure validity.” – uCatholic.com



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

So, the question for us becomes: is the orans posture an addition to the liturgy? In my opinion, yes. My reasoning is that the General Instruction of the Roman Missal references the orans posture with the phrase “with hands extended.” It is instructed to be done twenty-eight times and is used as a direction only for the priest(s) - the laity are never directed to pray “with hands extended.” Given that it is clearly a directive in the GIRM, to add it to any other part of the liturgy would be a violation of the above stated liturgical rule.

As to the reason why this matter is rarely addressed, that most likely has to do with pastoral sensitivity. If a handful of people are innocently praying in that position, the priest is not going to go out of his way to embarrass them or cause them to feel uncomfortable. Their action, while not liturgically correct, is probably not a distraction to anyone around them. But as I said before, at the Charismatic Masses I attended, it appeared everyone was raising their hands! As you see, there are influences from other cultures that have crept into our Mass. Now, the only time I could see a priest feeling pastorally required to address such a situation would be if people were being instructed by others to use the orans posture, or if it was so widespread that those who chose not to do so were made to feel uncomfortable, like the priest in South Florida! I will tell you, though, the parishioners in South Florida did address this with the Archbishop! People would argue that the holding of hands brings unity to the congregation. Yes, I agree, but the true unity is brought through the celebration of the Eucharist. It is here we become one Body of Christ.

Now remember, don't shoot the messenger! I was asked this question, and I believe it is my responsibility to address it and tell the truth. Next week, we will continue to talk about questions concerning the Mass!

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reads the words of scripture: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.” In the month of January, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist many local families, providing them with food and financial assistance for utilities, rent, bills, etc. 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!

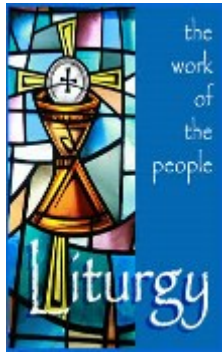
Thank You
for your continued support of SVDP!

SVDP JANUARY “PRODUCT OF THE MONTH” SOUP



“ Please, make a visit every so often. Just go into your church for a moment and say, “Hi, Jesus, I’m here. I don’t have much to say.” He knows that He wants our will, our love, our faith, and our trust. Remember now, you have that, you have everything. Every day, whatever church you belong to, he waits in that tabernacle, hoping when that door opens, it’s you. ”

- Mother Angelica



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

This is the final weekend to sign up for your Liturgical Ministry! The signup sheets are on the counter in Shea Hall. Please take a few minutes after Mass this weekend 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



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.

Jan. 25-26: Announcement Weekend
(SEE BULLETIN INSERT)

Feb. 1-2: Commitment Weekend
(in-pew process)

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST



Eucharisticrevival.org

*St. Irenaeus
(c. 130 - c. 202)*

*“For as the bread,
which is produced
from the earth,
when it receives
the invocation of God,
is no longer
common bread,
but the Eucharist,
consisting of two reali-
ties, earthly and heaven-
ly; so also our bodies,
when they receive the
Eucharist are no longer
corruptible, having the
hope of the resurrection
to eternity.”*



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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

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 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) OR: 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

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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)

