



JANUARY 5, 2025
THE EPIPHANY 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

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	1/6	8:30 AM	Charlie Graham
Tue	1/7	8:30 AM	Loretta Bailey
Wed	1/8	NO MORNING MASS	
Thu	1/9	8:30 AM	Brian Barker
Fri	1/10	8:30 AM	Maria & John Azzolina
Sat	1/11	4:00 PM	Camilla Sorrell
Sun	1/12	9:00 AM	The Bruno Family

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: 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	1/6	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	1/7	4:00 PM	RCIA Classes Resume
Wed	1/8	5:00 PM	SVdP - PRC
Thu	1/9		
Fri	1/10		
Sat	1/11	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	1/12	9:00 AM	Mass



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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

CHRIST THE LIGHT OF THE NATIONS



PASTOR'S
NOTES

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. Epiphany means “showing forth” or manifestation. Epiphany was the original feast of Christ’s birth. In the ancient world an epiphany referred to a visit from a god or one who was revered as a god, such as a King. While at Christmas we celebrate the coming down of the Son of God, on the Epiphany we direct our attention to this Child’s divine dignity which already is beginning to manifest itself in the world.

Today’s reading from Ephesians resonates with the reading from Isaiah when it asserts that the Gentiles along with the Jews are also heirs to the promise of salvation. Mathew picks up the same theme with the arrival of the magi bearing gifts (gold, frankincense, and myrrh). The message of all three readings is not to be missed. Salvation is for all people. No one is excluded. Jew and Gentile alike share the covenant.

Epiphany is another celebration of Christ’s manifestation to the world. Even though there is great emphasis placed on the story of the magi, the theme of this feast transcends the manifestation of God to the Gentiles; it centers on God’s self-revelation to humanity in the person of Christ.

The opening prayer of this liturgy, exhort us to listen to the readings “as an announcement of the mystery, of the good news, of what is and will be.” The celebration calls us to live in the glory that is ours. In the Epiphany liturgy when we pray the “Prayer over the Gifts” we ask God to accept our offerings, not of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, but our very selves – our hearts and our humanity. The preface for Epiphany proclaims the feast’s central theme, Christ the light of the nations.

Today’s gospel begins with the phrase: “*When Jesus was born*”.... Mathew puts the story in the context of the political environment. Herod takes the story of “the King of the Jews” quite literally and seriously. The mysterious magi enter the scene. Probably coming from Persia, tradition gave them the names Baltazar, Melchior, and Caspar. They became symbols of the diversity of the Church, of God’s manifestation to the Gentile world, to all nations.

Jesus is called “the King of the Jews” in order to name him the Messiah. The *star* is a reference to a messianic prophecy in the Old Testament Book of Numbers in which a star is identified with the Messiah. For Mathew the magi signify that Christ has always manifested his glory to people from distant lands. The Star merely served a purpose. The star was the instrument that would lead the people to the One who would break the power of any force who would bind people to a predetermined fate. When people are in God’s hands, their fate is secured in and through Jesus.

Finally, the magi find the child and their search ends. They offered the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, which became the symbols of Christ’s kinship, his divinity, and his suffering. The magi learned of Herod’s evil plotting and then return home by a different route. Having found the child Jesus, their lives were forever touched. They were transformed. Their change in direction alerts us to this transformation. An encounter with Jesus assumes a change in direction, of heart, conversion, a metanoia.

Like Christmas, Epiphany is a feast of redemption. Christ became incarnated in our world and manifested the presence of God in order to save the world from itself. Sin could be conquered only through the life, death, and resurrection of the One who was born and the One who revealed his glory to all the nations. We are to proclaim the Glory of God through Christ.

Epiphany is a reminder that God continues to make his presence known to us and invites us to respond to that presence. May our encounter with Jesus in this Christmas Season help us to give a new direction to our lives and prompt us to share with others the divine energy that has been given to us.



CATECHISM

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Happy 2025 St. Francis! I pray this calendar year brings you health, peace and the joy that can only come from our Savior and Lord Jesus!

People have many questions about their Catholic Faith. That's why you will read many times in the Catechism Corner my reference to the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Well, there are the same amount or even more questions about the Mass. When questions come up about the greatest prayer of the Church – the Mass – the reference one should go to is the GIRM. This is an acronym for: the **G**eneral **I**nstruction of the **R**oman **M**issal.

What is the purpose of the GIRM? Simply put, the purpose of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) is to provide specific guidelines and instructions for the celebration of the Mass. It ensures that the liturgy is conducted uniformly and reverently, adhering to the Church's traditions and teachings. The GIRM outlines the roles and actions of the priest and the laity, **ensuring that no one adds, removes, or changes anything in the liturgy on their own authority**, (my emphasis added for your benefit) as stated in *Sacrosanctum Concilium* 22.3. This helps maintain the integrity and sanctity of the Mass across different dioceses, as seen in the decree of publication for the United States. *catholic.com*

Just like any business, meeting, job (I specifically think of Law Enforcement and the Military) there have to be guidelines otherwise you have chaos! This is not anything new either! All you have to do is read St. Paul's letters, especially to the Corinthians. He was always correcting the Church in Corinth because of their divisive views. When I think of "cafeteria Catholics," the Corinthians were the first! They would pick and choose what they liked and did that and what they didn't like they would just ignore the instructions. St. Paul's letters would write about the unity and diversity of the Church, but more importantly he would write about his love for the Corinthians, but ever so gently inform them of their wrong-doings and instruct them to correct their ways. Paul reminded them that self-giving love toward one another should be the response of every member of the community. He reminds us of what Church is called to be and to do. A very familiar scripture passage is the one about love is patient, love is kind etc..... This is one that is often read and preached about at weddings, but it has an ecclesial (relating to Church) importance. The Church is a community of love; in all that it does, it is called to be the instrument of God, allowing His love to be active **and** present in the world.

With that being said, keep in mind that what I write in the following weeks is written with the love that I have for you and for the benefit of our community of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. I will try my best to answer the many questions that I've been asked! Much love and gratitude for all of you. Have a wonderful week, my Little Church on the River!



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.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. In the spirit of the Magi, please put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box so that comfort and peace can once again be given to a newborn child.

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



“ Notice, too, that at the crib, only two classes of people found their way to Christ when he came to this earth: the very simple, and the very learned - the shepherds who knew that they knew nothing, and the wise men who knew that they did not know everything; never the man who thought that he knew. ”

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen
from the book,
Through the Year with Fulton Sheen

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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.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

**Pope St. John Paul II
(1920 - 2005)**


*“From the Eucharist comes
strength to live the Christian
life and zeal to share that
life with others.”*



Eucharisticrevival.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
1/16/2025	WEST Meeting 12 Noon Shea Hall	Online: N/A E-mail: stfrancistownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070
1/26/25	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
9/29-10/9/2025	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


 Our RCIA classes 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: sfadeacon7717@gmail.com OR 901-493-2123.