



FEBRUARY 2, 2025 THE PRESENTATION 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

PASTOR	Rev. Antonio Giraldo	GARDENS & GROUNDS	Ilene Rainwater
DEACON	Deacon Jim Schmall	FACILITIES	David Girard
OFFICE MANAGER	Kathy Meyerkord	SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE	JoAnne Romer-Aylward
BOOKKEEPER	Kathleen Halligan	PASTORAL CARE	Suzie Fay
LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTOR	JoAnne Romer-Aylward	ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP	Camilla Sorrell
DIR. OF RELIGIOUS ED.	Julie Dew	COLUMBARIUM	Bob Eberhardt
RCIA/OCIA	Bruce Boudin	WELCOMING, EVENTS &	All Parishioners
ART & ENVIRONMENT	Norene O'Donnell	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	2/3	8:30 AM	Mary DuRussel
Tue	2/4	8:30 AM	Chris Gibson
Wed	2/5	NO MORNING MASS	
Thu	2/6	8:30 AM	Brian Barker
Fri	2/7	8:30 AM	Joan Nieman and Zack Bell
Sat	2/8	4:00 PM	Agnes Robida
Sun	2/9	9:00 AM	Debbie Mannino

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, James Hrom

SANCTUARY CANDLE: *The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week for a special intention for James Hrom given by St. Francis Parishioners.* 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

Mon	2/3	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	2/4	4:00 PM	RCIA - PRC
Wed	2/5	5:00 PM	SVdP - PRC
Thu	2/6		
Fri	2/7	9:00 AM	Adoration
		Noon	Benediction & Closing
Sat	2/8	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	2/9	9:00 AM	Mass

FINANCIAL SUMMARY THROUGH 12/31/2024

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



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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



THE MANY FACETS OF A LIT CANDLE

Today we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord. But there is so much more going on today. It is also known as Candlemas Day. More on that in a minute. It is also known as Groundhog Day - did Phil see his shadow or not? It is also the birthday of a certain Pastor of our parish. So, join me in wishing Fr. Antonio "Feliz Cumpleaños" on his birthday. And welcome home. Bienvenido a casa Padre.

Back in the day, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord was considered the end of the Christmas season. Later, the end of the Christmas season was changed to the Baptism of the Lord. This celebration today, on the fortieth day after Christmas remembers the day when the infant Jesus was brought to the Temple to be dedicated to God according to Jewish law.

As I mentioned earlier, one of the names of this feast is "Candlemas." In some cultures, candles are blessed on this day not primarily for church use but to be taken back to people's homes. They are used when a priest then comes with the Blessed Sacrament for a sick call, in times of prayer, and years ago when storms were threatening, people often lit the candle to remind them of the presence of Christ.

The candle is a magnificent symbol of Christ. In a darkened room, it spreads light, it focuses our attention. It brings a profound comfort to the soul. A lit candle speaks to a primitive need we all have for safety and for a center around which we can gather. Just as darkness comes in many forms today, so storms can come in all shapes and duration. There are storms in the family, storms in a community, storms in the Church, and storms in our soul. Through any of these, the lit candle reminds us that Christ remains a place of safety and a point around which we all can gather.

Like those blessed candles, the light of Christ is also to be taken to our homes. Gospel truth and times of communion with the Lord are not to be confined to the church. They can have a powerful impact in our homes. When a family gathers around a lit candle, they are reminded of their unity and their relationship with Christ which is both personal and shared like the candlelight. Whatever the darkness we experience may be, the candle reminds us that Jesus is there.

It is said that keeping people in constant darkness can create profound instability. Today is a day to thank God for the gift of light and to embrace Christ who is light for us and through us for others. In a world of so much darkness, we are called to be reflections of Christ's light.



*Fr. Antonio
February 2nd*



CATECHISM
CORNER



Good and happy weekend! I have had SO many questions about Mass! So, in this week's Catechism Corner I would like to continue addressing those questions! And today, I am going to try and answer several! So, let's get going!

Over the years, many questions have been asked like the one a good friend asked: "At the beginning of Mass, the priest is introduced with a phrase similar to 'please stand and greet our celebrant, Father so-and-so'." Aren't we ALL "celebrants" of the Mass? To answer her question: **NO**. The congregation, while participating actively in the liturgy, is **NOT** referred to as "celebrants." Instead, they are participants - or the faithful gathered - (I like the faithful gathered!) for worship. The role of the celebrant is distinct, as they lead the liturgical celebration and perform the sacramental actions. This distinction is important in understanding the structure and roles within the Catholic Mass. As stated in 1 Corinthians 11:24-25, the priest acts in persona Christi, offering the Eucharist, which is central to the Mass. Presider and celebrant are synonyms for the person who offers the Mass. Thus, only a priest or bishop can be a presider or celebrant. Presider is a newer term that generally indicates that the priest takes the lead in offering the Mass. Celebrant is of older vintage and means that the priest is the person who primarily celebrates the Mass. In recent times, presider has become preferred by some as a means of indicating that the congregation should take an active role in the liturgy, proper to their status as laity. So, either term is correct, even though it would make my friend cringe!

Here's a question that many of you may have: "During the Profession of Faith - the Creed - why do we bow during the words "by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man." Isn't this posture worshipping Mary? Again, to answer in one word: NO. We bow during the words "by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man" in the Creed to show reverence and honor. According to the GIRM, this profound bow signifies our deep respect for the mystery of the Incarnation, where God became man through the Virgin Mary (GIRM 137, 275). On the Solemnities of the Annunciation and the Nativity of the Lord, we genuflect instead, emphasizing the significance of these events in salvation history. This gesture reflects our acknowledgment of the profound mystery of God becoming man for our salvation, as expressed in John 1:14, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." And remember, do not bow **before** or **after** the stated words! (just follow the italic instructions on the inside front cover of the Missalette!)

Here's a quick question: Are we to bow to our priest as he leaves the sanctuary to process out? Simple answer (I like simple answers!): The rubrics for the Sunday liturgy do not call for the faithful to bow as the priest leaves the sanctuary.

Here's another simple answer to a question. When we profess the Confiteor during the Penitential Act, how many times do we strike our breast? Answer – once! Read in the Missalette on page 4, we strike our breast as we repeat three times "my fault." The practice in Spanish- and Italian-language countries, has always maintained the triple form of "striking the breast" in the Confiteor. It really is how the Rubric is interpreted in the different languages!!

So many questions and so little space! Next week I hope to answer a couple more. I pray your week is filled with love and gratitude for the many blessings in your life!



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.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today, we learn of the first sword in Mary's heart – the knowledge of her Son's death. Though many would live forever in fear, Mary found courage in faith in the Lord. Your gift to the poor can help them to overcome their swords of fear and doubt.

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.

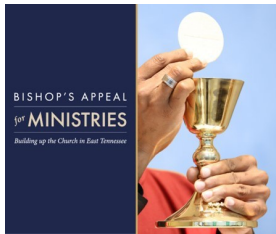
SVDP meets the 1st and 3rd
Wednesdays of the month at 5:00 PM
in the PRC. All are welcome to attend!

Thank You
for your continued support of SVDP!

SVDP FEBRUARY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" PASTA AND PASTA SAUCE



THE BISHOP'S APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES 2025



This weekend is our in-pew Commitment Weekend. 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.

There is a very nice 4.5 minute YouTube video on the Diocesan website (dioknox.org/appeal) regarding this year's Annual Appeal as well as additional information that will help inform your discernment regarding the Annual Appeal.

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



SUNDAY MORNINGS - COFFEE, PASTRIES, AND FELLOWSHIP

Each Sunday after the 9:00 AM Mass, the congregation is invited into Shea Hall for Coffee, Pastries, and Fellowship. Our parishioners and visitors have really been enjoying this ministry!

YOUR help is needed to supply the pastries each week and to keep this ministry active. If you are enjoying this ministry and would be able to help out supplying pastries, **please sign up** on the clipboard hanging in the kitchen area in Shea Hall. If you are enjoying this ministry but are unable to help out supplying pastries, perhaps you would be able to help out by supporting this ministry financially. Contributions may be placed in the small collection box on the counter in Shea Hall on Sunday mornings or may be directed to the church office. If you choose to write a check, please make sure that "Sunday Fellowship" is clearly marked in the memo area so that it is recorded properly. All monies collected will go toward future purchases of coffee, creamer, sweetener, paper plates, napkins, and plastic utensils. Please contact Donna Czerniewski with your questions or for more information: (847-668-4074).

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION - 2/7/25



“Always remain close to the Catholic Church, because it alone can give you true peace, since it alone possesses Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, the true Prince of Peace.”

- St. Padre Pio

Mass: 8:30 AM
Adoration: 9:00 - Noon
Healing Service: 9:00 AM
(in Shea Hall)
Benediction: Noon

If you are interested in committing to a Holy Hour, please contact Jackie Wagner at 330-807-8663.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST



Eucharisticrevival.org

*St. Teresa of Kolkata
(Mother Teresa)
(1910 - 1997)*

“Jesus has made Himself the Bread of Life to give us life. Night and day, He is there. If you really want to grow in love, come back to the Eucharist, come back to that Adoration.”



HEALING MINISTRY AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

Our healing service is offered concurrently with adoration. Healing ministers are available in Shea Hall and the sacristy while Adoration is available in the church. When you would like Healing Prayers after the 1st Friday Mass, please come into Shea Hall and a prayer minister will pray for you individually in the Sacristy.

Our Healing Ministry is made up of lay ministers who have been trained to pray for your needs and healing. During our time with you, you will be advised that this is NOT a Sacrament (such as Anointing of the Sick). You will be asked for permission to lay hands on your shoulders while being prayed for and you will be offered Holy Water to use for blessing yourself and then faithfully receive our healing prayers. Healing prayers will be for emotional, physical and/or spiritual healing.

If you would like to be trained to be a part of the healing team, please call Darlene Leitz at 574-238-1705 or email darby321@comcast.net for more information.

“Heal me, Lord, that I may be healed; save me, that I may be saved, for you are my praise.” (Jeremiah 17:14)



“The Eucharist is the meeting of your flesh with Christ’s, and taken in the right state, his Heart can be touched and consoled. We can give him that moment of harmony and rightness. We can embrace him as he embraces us.”

- Sally Read

from her book,
Annunciation: A Call to Faith in a Broken World

MEET OUR NEW CHURCH OFFICE MANAGERS



KATRINA ALLOCCO



LESA SCHMALL

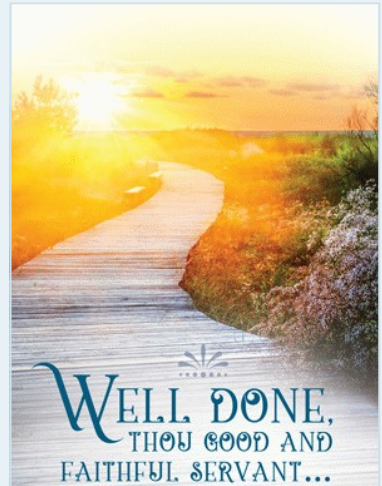
Katrina and Lesa will be sharing the job of Office Manager beginning Monday, February 3, 2025. The office hours will remain Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to Noon. Please extend a "Thank You" to Katrina and Lesa for saying "yes" to this daunting task! And please be patient as they work through the details of job-sharing a surprisingly complicated task of running a church office!

Thanks, Katrina and Lesa!

Also, please congratulate Kathy Meyerkord on her MANY years of excellent Office management and thank her for a job VERY well done! Kathy is not leaving the parish, just stepping away from the daily commitment and challenges of managing a parish office. You'll still see Kathy wearing her many hats as a Liturgical Minister, active member of our WES Team (WEST) and our St. Vincent de Paul group.



Thanks, Kathy!



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
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 - Cleveland, TN	Online: See poster in Shea Hall; Scan QR Code Phone: 407-252-0320 (Karen Agnello) OR: Phone: 901-485-1965 (Amy Schaefer)
5/5/2025	Cinco de Mayo Potluck Shea Hall 4-7 PM	Online: Poster and Sign-up Sheets Coming Soon E-mail: N/A Phone: N/A
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

“You can change. You can remake yourself. You can rebuild your life. How? One choice at a time. You remake yourself and rebuild your life one choice at a time.”

MATTHEW KELLY
Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy





Esteban Salazar

TENOR



Christian Correa

TENOR



Laura Gómez

SOPRANO

ESTEBAN & FRIENDS IN CONCERT

FEB 21, 2025
7:00 PM

Admission is Free.

A Love Offering
will be collected.



Wine & Cheese Gathering
6:15 PM

Reception and Refreshments
following the concert

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
7717 River Rd.
Townsend, TN 37882