



FEBRUARY 23, 2025 SEVENTH 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

PASTOR	Rev. Antonio Giraldo	GARDENS & GROUNDS	Ilene Rainwater
DEACON	Deacon Jim Schmall	FACILITIES	David Girard
OFFICE MANAGERS	Katrina Allocco & Lesa Schmall	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	Dc. Jim Schmall	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	2/24	8:30 AM	James Phelps Moore, Jr.
Tue	2/25	8:30 AM	Marion Ganley
Wed	2/26	NO MORNING MASS	
Thu	2/27	8:30 AM	Ruben Fraire
Fri	2/28	8:30 AM	Alice Rollins
Sat	3/1	4:00 PM	Zack & Jessie Bell, Hadley Watson
Sun	3/2	9:00 AM	Charles & Margaret Wagner

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, 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, Michael Slater, Rocky Brach, Dennis Richards, Jeff Herzog, Edward McCaughey, Marion McCaughey, Sue Wood, George Murr, Raymond Polak

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.



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST



Eucharisticrevival.org

*St. Augustine of Hippo
(354 - 430)*

*“Recognize in this bread
what hung on the cross
and in this chalice
what flowed
from His side.”*

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	2/17	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	2/18	4:00 PM	RCIA - PRC
Wed	2/19		
Thu	2/20		
Fri	2/21	7:00 PM	Concert—Church/Hall
Sat	2/22	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	2/23	9:00 AM	Mass



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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



THERE IS NO ROOM FOR ANYTHING THAT IS NOT GOD

Today's Gospel reminds me of a story that is told about two old monks who lived in a desert community in the very early days of the Church. Like many of the stories of the early desert fathers and mothers, this one may be somewhat exaggerated, but it illustrates an important point. It seems that two monks were discussing what it was like to get into a dispute. The one monk said, "Well, in the world, people own things, they have possessions, and they often argue over who owns certain things." The second monk found that hard to fathom and so the first monk said, "Let me show you what I mean." He said, "We will sit down and put this brick between us. And I will say, 'This is my brick.' And you say, 'No, this is my brick.' And then we will have a dispute." So, the second monk agreed to try that. They sat down, put the brick between them, and the first monk said, "This is my brick." The second monk looked at him, thought for a moment, and said, "Okay, you can have it." The old monk had lived the gospel so long that it had become impossible to even pretend to have a dispute over material things.

We may be tempted to think that such a Christian spirituality existed only in ancient communities. But if we look closely at our own community, we find evidence that the spirit of today's Gospel is alive and well. When we consider the many in our community who, every week, give generously of their time to their church, to their families, to the community, without expecting repayment or even recognition, we can say that we are living Luke's Gospel.

Approaching today's Gospel in this way sheds a different light on the season of Lent we are about to enter. Once again, the Church gives us a season in which we can expand our capacity to be filled by God. We do it by taking very concrete steps: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. But we do not do these things in order to achieve a spiritual ideal. We set aside time for prayer, knowing that it will make us more open to God. We fast from whatever is an obstacle to a deeper spiritual life so that God may fill us more completely. We care for the poor, knowing that Christ is in our world, disguised as the disadvantaged, the strange, the distraught, those who have nothing.

We are all destined to be people who turn the other cheek, who find it impossible to fight over money or prestige, let alone bricks. We are all being led to that moment when we will be so filled with God that there is no room for anything that is not God.



On a personal note, I will be out of town next weekend Feb. 28-Mar 2. I will be on a retreat with the rest of the deacons in the diocese. Please keep us in your prayers.

Deacon Jim



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.

CATECHISM

CORNER



BY: Julie Dew

Hello St. Francis! We are coming to the end of “the questions about the Mass” (even though there are still more) and I do hope I’ve answered some of your questions.

So, here’s a question that is asked more often from friends that are not Catholic than are Catholic: Who can change the Mass/Liturgy?

First, understand that the faithful have a right to a true liturgy. This right is guaranteed in the Code of Canon Law: CANON 214: The Christian faithful have the right to worship God according to the prescriptions of their own rite approved by the legitimate pastors of the Church, and to follow their own form of spiritual life consonant with the teaching of the Church.

Most liturgical abuses involve the omission of a mandatory part of the liturgy, the addition to the liturgy of something the Church has not authorized, or the change of a liturgical text to say something other than what the Church has authorized.

Since the liturgy is the public or communal worship the Church gives to God, those whom God has given charge of the Church (please read 1 Thessalonians 5:12 and Hebrews 13:17) have the responsibility of regulating the liturgy to make sure that it is conducted properly. The way the liturgy is regulated at the present time is spelled out in the Code of Canon Law. Please read Canon 838 §1-§4. Ok, I’ll summarize it for you!

Canon 838 states that the ordering and guidance of the sacred liturgy depends solely upon the authority of the Church, specifically the Apostolic See and the diocesan Bishop. The Apostolic See is responsible for ordering the sacred liturgy of the universal Church and publishing liturgical books.

“The pattern is for the Holy See to order the liturgy, for the conference of bishops to translate it and adapt it to its own jurisdiction, and for the diocesan bishop to issue additional liturgical norms. An example of the latter would be what time the Easter Vigil will be celebrated in a particular locale. However, the diocesan bishop may not make norms that conflict with those that have been established by the Holy See. Similarly, the conference of bishops must obtain the confirmation of the Holy See before any translations or adaptations it has proposed are permitted to be used (this is what is meant by the “the *prior* review of the Holy See”). Page 24 *Mass Confusion*.

So, this means that **no one**, whether lector, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, deacon, priest, bishop or even a national conference of bishops, is able to authorize changes in the liturgy that conflict with what has been approved by the Holy See. And we all know who that is!!

St. Pope John Paul II also stressed: “The priest.....cannot consider himself a “proprietor” who can make free use of the liturgical text and of the sacred rite as if it were his own property, in such a way as to stamp it with his own arbitrary personal style.....Every priest who offers the Holy Sacrifice should recall that during this Sacrifice it is not only he with his community that is praying but the whole Church, which is thus expressing in this sacrament her spiritual unity, among other ways by the use of approved liturgical text. To call this position “mere insistence on uniformity” would only show ignorance of the objective requirements of authentic unity, and would be a symptom of harmful individualism.” – *Dominicae Cenae* (“On the Mystery and Worship of the Eucharist”) Feb. 24, 1980

I hope you have enjoyed these couple of months answering your questions! God’s blessings to you!



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel Jesus gives us the challenge to: "Love your enemies... Give to everyone who asks of you... Do to others as you would have them do to you... Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. In the month of February, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist local families, providing them with food, and financial assistance with utility and 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 FEBRUARY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" PASTA AND PASTA SAUCE



"But the Church was not founded for those who are perfect and have it all together. Jesus came for the sinners, the imperfect. Jesus comes every Mass in the Eucharist for you and for me."

ALEX BREINDEL
Why I Love Being Catholic



 DynamicCatholic.com



designed by freepik.com

TWO MASSES ON EASTER SUNDAY THIS YEAR: 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM

A second Mass will be added on Easter Sunday this year (April 20, 2025) in an effort to alleviate the overcrowded conditions that occur at the 9:00 AM Easter Sunday Mass. More information will be made available on our website and our Lenten Calendar/ Schedule that will be distributed in a couple of weeks, but for now please feel free to plan your Easter Sunday brunches, family time, and egg hunts accordingly!



SECOND COLLECTION MARCH 8 & 9

FOR BLACK AND INDIAN MISSIONS

A second collection will be taken up on March 8 & 9 to help provide Catholic school education and seminary tuition assistance for minority communities in our diocese. Thank you for your generosity in helping to make Catholic school education possible for minority communities.

MARCH 1 & 2 SECOND COLLECTION - MAINTENANCE FUND



Your donations made to this fund will help pay for the rising cost of maintaining our aging buildings and to continue with preventative maintenance. Most recently, we have utilized this fund to repair our aging air conditioning unit in the church. And, we are in the planning process of replacing the steps and ramp surrounding the PRC building. This would not be possible without your generous contributions to the Maintenance Fund! Thank you for your support!

Visitors to our beautiful little church on the Little River frequently ask where their donation would be of the most use. We are very thankful for our visitor's financial contributions, especially during our lean winter months when tourism typically declines. This Maintenance Fund would be a great choice for making your donation!

To contribute to this fund, please place your pre-printed envelope in the **second** collection basket the weekend of March 1st and 2nd. If you do not have a pre-printed envelope, you may place cash or check in the **second** collection basket.

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH.

If you choose to mail in your donation, please mark on the envelope or check that it is for the "Maintenance" Fund and send it to:

St. Francis of Assisi Church (Maintenance Fund Contribution)
7717 River Rd.
Townsend, TN 37882



ASH WEDNESDAY

Masses and Ashes at
9:00 AM and 6:00 PM



“
*How could I
bear a crown of gold
when the Lord
bears a crown of thorns?*”

- St. Elizabeth of Hungary
Patroness of
the Poor and Charitable Works

Marcelino "Mark" Ruiz, Jr.
December 8, 1950



Entered into Eternal Life
February 12, 2025

*Well done, good and faithful servant;
enter into the joy of your master.*

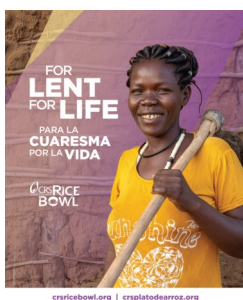
- Matthew 25:21

SECOND COLLECTION ON ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025
NATIONAL COLLECTION FOR AID TO THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE.



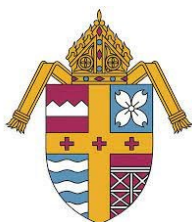
On Ash Wednesday, March 5, a second collection will be taken up in support of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe that suffered so much under decades of harsh Soviet communist rule. Great need remains for the Church in many of these countries as they are still unable to support their own renewal and growth. Your donation will help with the training of seminarians and lay leaders, youth ministry, pastoral and catechetical centers, schools, church construction and renovation, and evangelization through Catholic media. Thank you for your generosity in support of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

“OPERATION RICE BOWL” 2025



During Lent, please be generous in supporting Catholic Relief Services (CRS) with “Operation Rice Bowl” (ORB). Remembering that “What I give up I give to others” we are encouraged to widen the door of faith through our care for the poor. Monies collected assist CRS programs around the world with agriculture projects to help farmers improve harvests, with water projects to bring clean water to communities, with micro-finance projects to support small businesses, with health and nutrition projects for expectant mothers and for children, as well as for educational projects. In addition, 25% of what is collected goes to *Catholic Charities of East Tennessee* to assist with its charitable programs in our diocese. Please take a Rice Bowl home with you and to your office as one of the ways to highlight the beauty of our Lenten triptych of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

DIocese OF KNOXVILLE JOB OPENINGS



The Diocese of Knoxville is searching for a Director of Youth and Young Adult and Pastoral Juvenil (Y&YA&PJ). The Director of Y&YA&PJ is responsible for fostering the faith formation and spiritual growth of youth and young adults within the Diocese of Knoxville. Please see the Diocese of Knoxville website for a full job description at <https://dioknox.org/employment>. If you are interested, please contact Maura Lentz at mlentz@dioknox.org

The Diocese of Knoxville is searching for a Director of Human Resources. The Director of Human Resources is responsible for ensuring the Diocese of Knoxville fulfills its religious and secular obligations related to employees in the areas of hiring/terminating, compensation, benefits management, training, ongoing professional development, evaluation, promotion, and policy generation and establish good rapport and trust with people, particularly the pastors. Responsible for the diocese's compliance with federal, state, and local employment laws and regulations. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Human Resources, Business Administration, or related field required; or 10 years of human resource generalist or management experience in lieu of degree, at least five years of human resource generalist or management experience required. SHRM-CP or SHRM-SCP highly preferred. Please see the Diocese of Knoxville website for a full job description at <https://dioknox.org/employment>. If you are interested, please contact Deacon Sean Smith at ssmith@dioknox.org.

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
2/23/2025	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
3/5/2025	ASH WEDNESDAY Mass and Ashes: 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM	Online: www.stfrancistownsend.org E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: Church Office: 865-448-6070
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: 423-943-4147 (Pam Morgan) OR: Phone: 423-470-2560 (Susan Collins)
4/8/2025	WES Team (WEST) Meeting Noon - Shea Hall	Online: N/A E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: Church Office: 865-448-6070
4/20/2025	2 Easter Sunday Masses This Year: 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM	Online: Coming Soon: www.stfrancistownsend.org E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: Church Office: 865-448-6070
4/24-26/2025	Knoxville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Biennial Convention St. Mary's Church - Johnson City, TN	Online: www.kdccb.org AND See poster in Shea Hall Phone: 407-252-0320 (Karen Agnello) OR: Phone: 901-485-1965 (Amy Schaefer)
5/4/2025	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