

## MARCH 16, 2025 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH  
7717 RIVER ROAD - TOWNSEND, TN 37882  
865 - 448 - 6070  
WEBSITE: STFRANCISTOWNSEND.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 MANAGERS</b> .....Katrina Allocco & Lesa Schmall	<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> .....Dc. Jim Schmall	<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>3/17</b>	8:30 AM	Ken Wood Elliott
<b>Tue</b>	<b>3/18</b>	8:30 AM	Juan Chavez Reyez
<b>Wed</b>	<b>3/19</b>	<b>NO MORNING MASS</b>	
<b>Thu</b>	<b>3/20</b>	8:30 AM	Brian Barker Oliva de Restrepo &
<b>Fri</b>	<b>3/21</b>	8:30 AM	Abelardo Restrepo Rendon
<b>Sat</b>	<b>3/22</b>	4:00 PM	Doug DuRussel
<b>Sun</b>	<b>3/23</b>	9:00 AM	Mary Hopman

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, David Holmes, Amy Frink, Myra Montera, Claire Cheadle, Elise Martin, Paul Fain, Joyce Fain, 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, 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:** During the Lenten season, we change our sanctuary floral decorations from fresh cut flowers to dried floral arrangements to reflect the dry period of Jesus' 40 days in the desert.



If, after the Lenten season you would like to donate to the altar flowers fund in memory of or in honor of someone, contact the Parish Office via phone or email. The cost is \$40.00 for 1 week. Thank You!

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>3/17</b>	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
<b>Tue</b>	<b>3/18</b>	4:00 PM	RCIA - PRC
<b>Wed</b>	<b>3/19</b>	5:00 PM	SVdP - PRC
<b>Thu</b>	<b>3/20</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>3/21</b>	5:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
<b>Sat</b>	<b>3/22</b>	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>3/23</b>	9:00 AM	Mass
		10:30 AM	The Chosen - PRC Bible Study



**ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP**

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



“ Together, we will bring faith where it is barren. ”

- St. Methodius



## GOD DOES NOT LIE - GOD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS PROMISE

Abram, whose name was later changed to Abraham, lived almost 4000 years ago. God had already inspired him to migrate to the Land of Canaan. Today we hear God make two promises to Abraham: 1) He would have so many descendants they could not be counted and 2) someday his descendants would occupy the entire land of Canaan. As proof that these promises would be fulfilled, God gave Abram a sign, a sign which consisted of a covenant ritual, a ritual that was a very common practice in the cultures of those times. Those participating in the covenant could be simply two individuals making a deal

between themselves all the way up to a treaty between several nations. The ritual involved cutting an animal in half and then the participants would walk between the halves. It was a symbolic way of saying, "may the same thing happen to me as to what happen to this animal if I am unfaithful to my promise." Recall that God is always represented as light and/or fire in the Scriptures and in today's first reading, only God, symbolized as fire and light, moved between the two halves of the animals. The meaning of this was that God was not asking Abram to do anything in return for God's favor except to always be faithful to his promises and that Abram would die a rich man in terms of Land, offspring and God's blessings.

In the psalm that follows, we express our own trust in God as "our light and our salvation." The ecstatic experience we hear about Abram in today's reading from the Book of Genesis is meant to prepare us for the account of Jesus' transfiguration when his glory was revealed to Peter, James and John on Mt. Tabor.

Jesus' transfiguration happened just a few days after he warned the apostles that he would suffer greatly at the hands of the Jewish leaders. Luke tells us that about eight days after these warnings, Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a mountain to pray. On a very mundane level, this time sequence describes our own life, sometimes things are going well, sometimes life is really the pits. That pattern repeats itself day after day, month after month, year after year our whole lifetime. With Jesus, however, it ends on a positive note. For Jesus, all his suffering and rejection, ended with his rising from the dead to eternal life and his ascension to the right hand of the Father in heaven. Our own lives are not nearly so dramatic, but the pain and the glory are just as real. We have to keep remembering that with Jesus it will end in glory.

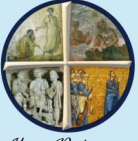
When it seems that our life is all pain and misery we just need to keep God's promises in mind. We heard the story of Abraham to whom God promised much land and many descendants, but the promise never seemed to happen. Yet it did! All Abraham had to do was to have faith, a faith that really challenged him. Paul in his Letter to the Philippians, assures us that our citizenship is in heaven – our life in this world is brief and we are just tourists here. Our true home, our native country is in heaven, and we will be transformed into a glorified body like Jesus' own body and enjoy forever the home that God is creating for us in heaven. Along with this theme, the sufferings of this life will be transformed into glory just as Jesus' sufferings would be transformed into glory. His transfiguration was meant to show his three disciples who went up the mountain with him.

Luke is the only gospel writer who tells us what Jesus was talking about as he spoke to Moses and Elijah. He was talking about his exodus – his passage from this world to the next. Jesus is talking to us today about our passage from this world to the next. He wants us to trust him. He has great plans for us. He wants us to know God is faithful to his promises; God does not lie.

Jesus said in John's gospel, "I came that they might have life and might have fully" (Jn. 10,10). God does not lie. God is faithful to his promises. We have to see that especially in the sacraments: in baptism we are born from above, we are called God's children and indeed that is what we really are (1 Jn. 3:1). In the sacrament of reconciliation, Jesus tells us through the words of the priest: "I absolve you from your sins." In the Eucharist he tells us "This is my body. This is the cup of my blood which will be shed for the forgiveness of sins." God does not lie; God is faithful to his promise.

## CATECHISM

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BY: *Hlene Rainwater*

### HIGHLIGHTING THE BACKGROUND OF DAVINCI'S "LAST SUPPER"

Hello fellow parishioners! Over the course of the next several weeks, the Catechism Corner will delve deeper into some interesting information about DaVinci's "Last Supper." Our first piece of interesting information begin with the fact that da Vinci's Last Supper is not a painting, it is a "Fresco." A Fresco is a painting done on plaster on a wall or ceiling so that the colors penetrate the plaster as it dries. If you were standing before this fresco you would find yourself in the dining room (the refractory) of the Dominican covenant of Santa Maria delle Gracia in Milan, Italy, where the friars were invited to gaze up at the 15 by 29 foot painting during their silent meals and imagine they were seated on the opposite side of this table. What would your thoughts be??

As noted previously, Leonardo was ahead of his time in many fields. His knowledge of mathematics and engineering were just some of the skills he used to bring his portrayal of the Last Supper to fruition. His notebooks were filled with countless drawings to determine how to project the appearance of depth, light, shadows and balance. He would use ordinary street people to study both body and facial characteristics using this knowledge of anatomy to bring to life the emotions shown by the apostles (more on this later). Da Vinci was not a particularly religious man but was a profound student of nature. He believed everything revolved around the elements, believing all things were intertwined. His use of one-point perspective visually breaks the spatial plane of the wall using it here to reveal his belief that science and reason lead one toward God.

Of course, none of us were present at the Last Supper and the four Gospels of this momentous event have slight variations. da Vinci's version of this scene enabled him to incorporate the prophecies of the Old Testament, the varied emotions of the apostles, Christ's demeanor, and symbolism. Pick up your bulletin each week - these will be highlighted in upcoming corners!



Image by Freepik

**FAST** from unhealthy habits today.

**PRAY** for the health of friends and family today who are ill or may not be in the best shape.

**GIVE** friends and family an example of positive health today by eating well and doing healthy activities with them.

### *Prayer for the Second Week of Lent*

O gracious Master, infuse in our hearts the spotless light of Your Divine Wisdom and open the eyes of our mind that we may understand the teachings of Your Gospel. Instill in us also the fear of Your blessed commandments, so that having curbed all carnal desires, we may lead a spiritual life, both thinking and doing everything to please You. For You, O Christ, our God, are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies; and to You we render glory, together with Your eternal Father, and with Your all holy, life-creating Spirit, now and forever. Amen.



### THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Lent is a call not just to “give up something” but more important to “give something for the poor.” Wherever you live in the parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell. Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor.

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 MARCH “PRODUCT OF THE MONTH” RICE A RONI AND PASTA SIDES



### APRIL 5 & 6 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 begin replacing the deck, stairs, and retaining wall around the PRC. 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 April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. 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



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.



### FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS!

As you may have noticed last week, the deteriorating wooden ramp that borders the Columbarium has been removed and work has begun on installing a new composite decking ramp that will border the Parish Resource Center on the East side. Once completed, new stairs will be installed from the porch, providing an additional access point for the Columbarium. In addition, a widened turn area into the parking lot will be achieved and lastly, the wooden deck that overlooks the Little River will be replaced with the same composite decking material.

Any and all donations to this project to help offset the cost will be greatly appreciated. Simply deposit your contribution in the regular weekly collection and note Directed Giving on the memo line of your check, or deliver your check to the Parish Office. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to either Dave Girard or Bob Eberhardt. Thank you in advance for helping with this project!

### INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST



[Eucharisticrevival.org](http://Eucharisticrevival.org)

*Pope St. Leo the Great  
(c. 400 - 461)*

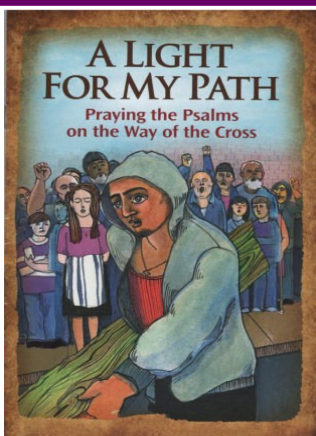
*“Our sharing  
in the Body and Blood of Christ  
has no other purpose  
than to transform us  
into that  
which we receive.”*

**BEGINNING  
SUNDAY, MARCH 16  
10:30 AM**

**The  
CHOSEN  
SEASON ONE**



**BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION  
PARISH RESOURCE CENTER**



## Friday, April 4

During this Lenten Season, offer yourself the opportunity to meditate on the Stations of the Cross in a different way. You are invited to gather and reflect on Jesus' Way of the Cross by using the same prayers he used in his life: the Book of Psalms. The prayer service will journey through the traditional fourteen Stations of the Cross while providing time for personal reflection, sharing of scripture and prayer, and the communal singing of the psalms.

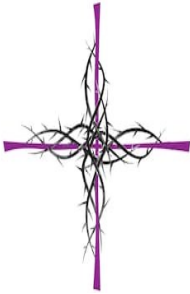
**5:00 PM**

**Stations of the Cross**

**Led by Our Music Ministry Team**

*My spirit is faint, my heart despairs, I stretch out my hands to you.*

*-Based on Psalm 143:4, 6a*



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS - FRIDAY 3/21/2025 - 5:00 PM

### FACILITATED BY OUR CCW ORGANIZATION MEATLESS LENTEN SUPPER TO FOLLOW

Praying the stations of the cross - especially on Lenten Fridays - is a beautiful, spiritual experience and a wonderful way to enhance your Lenten journey. Please plan on joining your parish family in this beloved tradition. For more information please see the Lenten schedule on the website, and on the bulletin boards in Shea Hall. There may also be some copies on the table in the church vestibule.



### THE DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX SURVEY

Dear friends, as I mentioned a couple of weeks ago, our parish is on a journey to know, love, and serve Christ as a parish community. Together we must embrace Christ's vision for missionary discipleship so our parish can thrive and be a place for others to grow together in faith. The DMI is an important survey tool that invites you to reflect on your discipleship journey here at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Townsend. Please take the DMI survey today.

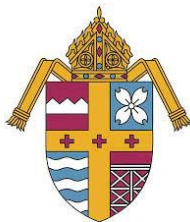
**Our parish login is:** <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/d/c1y28c>

Additionally, for your convenience, this link has been added to our website. Simply go to our website (<https://www.stfrancistownsend.org>), click on the icon that looks like the picture on the right side of this article, and follow the instructions in the article.



Please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our parish.

In Christ, *Deacon Jim*



### DIocese OF KNOXVILLE JOB OPENINGS

The Diocese of Knoxville is searching for a Director of Youth and Young Adult and Pastoral Juvenile. This Director 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](mailto:mlentz@dioknox.org)

The Diocese of Knoxville is also 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. 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](mailto:ssmith@dioknox.org).

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH IN PIGEON FORGE, TN** is searching for a part-time Parish Secretary. The Parish Secretary is the face of the parish and is responsible for welcoming those who come into or call the parish office. The Parish Secretary provides secretarial and clerical support for the parish office operations and will be responsible for the operation of the parish store. Please see the Diocese of Knoxville website for a full job description at <https://dioknox.org/employment>. If you are interested, please send your cover letter and resume to [hcpftn@gmail.com](mailto:hcpftn@gmail.com).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
1/19-4/13/2025	GriefShare Weekly grief support group Highland Manor Inn - Townsend, TN	Online: <a href="http://GriefShare.org/findagroup">GriefShare.org/findagroup</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:plsteele68@yahoo.com">plsteele68@yahoo.com</a> Phone: (text) 865-306-1956
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) <b>OR:</b> Phone: 423-470-2560 (Susan Collins)
4/4/2025	Men's Silent Retreat (4/4 - 4/6) Christ Prince of Peace Retreat Ctr. Benton, TN	Online: See poster in Shea Hall; Scan QR Code Online: <a href="http://dioknoxretreat.org">dioknoxretreat.org</a> ; <a href="http://regnumchristi.com">regnumchristi.com</a> Online: <a href="http://CatholicDads.org">CatholicDads.org</a>
4/8/2025	WES Team (WEST) Meeting Noon - Shea Hall	Online: N/A E-Mail: <a href="mailto:StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com">StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com</a> Phone: Church Office: 865-448-6070
4/20/2025	<b>2 Easter Sunday Masses This Year: 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM</b>	Online: <a href="http://www.stfrancistownsend.org">www.stfrancistownsend.org</a> E-Mail: <a href="mailto:StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com">StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com</a> 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: <a href="http://www.kdccb.org">www.kdccb.org</a> <b>AND</b> See poster in Shea Hall Phone: 407-252-0320 (Karen Agnello) <b>OR:</b> Phone: 901-485-1965 (Amy Schaefer)
5/4/2025	Cinco de Mayo Potluck (on SUNDAY) 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: <a href="mailto:ascensiontourstravel@gmail.com">ascensiontourstravel@gmail.com</a> Phone: 800-351-9893



Image by pngtree.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!