

MARCH 23, 2025 THIRD 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

PASTORRev. Antonio Giraldo	GARDENS & GROUNDSIlene Rainwater
DEACONDeacon Jim Schmall	FACILITIESDavid Girard
OFFICE MANAGERSKatrina Allocco & Lesa Schmall	SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITEJoAnne Romer-Aylward
BOOKKEEPERKathleen Halligan	PASTORAL CARESuzie Fay
LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTORJoAnne Romer-Aylward	ST. CLARE GIFT SHOPCamilla Sorrell
DIR. OF RELIGIOUS EDJulie Dew	COLUMBARIUMBob Eberhardt
RCIA/OCIADc. Jim Schmall	WELCOMING, EVENTS &All Parishioners
ART & ENVIRONMENTNorene 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.

ANOIDING 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	3/24	8:30 AM	Dang ThiSinh
Tue	3/25	8:30 AM	Jeanne Vilardo
Wed	3/26	NO MORNING MASS	
Thu	3/27	8:30 AM	Ruben Fraire
Fri	3/28	8:30 AM	
Sat	3/29	4:00 PM	Juan Chavex Reyez
Sun	3/30	9:00 AM	Elias, Genoveva, & Graciela Ventura

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 Malory, Louann Felske, Stephanie Romer, John & Maria Bermudes, Michael Slater, Rocky Brach, Dennis Richards, Jeff Herzog, Marion McCaughey, Sue Wood, George Murr, Sue Corsini

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

Mon	3/24	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	3/25	4:00 PM	RCIA - PRC
Wed	3/26		
Thu	3/27		
Fri	3/28	5:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
Sat	3/29	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	3/30	9:00 AM	Mass
		10:30 AM	The Chosen - PRC Bible Study



Let us go into this Lent with a sense of enthusiasm, a deep consciousness of sin, an awareness that we are penitents in need of redemption, and a knowledge that we are ailing people whom the Physician is coming to heal.



*Mother Mary Francis, P.C.C.
from her book, A Time of Renewal: Daily Reflections for the Lenten Season*



THE DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX SURVEY IS OPEN THIS WEEK!



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 very first step in this process involves assessing our greatest strengths and opportunities, and that is where the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) comes in! 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. I have completed mine and it took less than 10 minutes!

Log on at: <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/d/c1y28c> to begin the survey. When finished, just click SUBMIT SURVEY and you are finished!

- Your input helps strengthen our parish.
- Results help leadership prepare for the future.
- A report of the findings will be shared in May.

If you prefer a paper copy, you may pick up your survey in the Narthex of the church after daily and Sunday Masses. To submit the completed paper survey, please drop it off at the office during business hours.

At St. Francis of Assisi, Townsend, we are blessed in so many ways. Together, we will identify our strengths and opportunities in greater detail as we strive to grow in missionary discipleship.

Remember, the login for our parish is: <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/d/c1y28c>

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



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

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

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BY: *Hlene Rainwater*

SYMBOLISM AND NUMEROLOGY

Happy weekend, St. Francis! This Corner is all about symbolism and numerology in Leonardo da Vinci's fresco of The Last Supper. Da Vinci had a keen interest in mathematical science and its relation to nature. The Last Supper is interspersed with groupings of three and four and their mathematical multiples (6,7, & 12). Traditionally the number 3 symbolically represents divinity, wholesomeness, and the heavenly realm. We know Christ is the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end; da Vinci has postured Christ as a "triangle", from his head to outstretched hands, three points connected with each other. Could this be a representation of the Trinity? Three windows appear in the background behind Jesus, possibly interpreted as the light of heaven with a large middle window and encompassing Jesus' head.

Focusing on the overall picture, we can see that the apostles are deliberately paired in four groups of three ($3 \times 4 = 12$). The surrounding walls are each covered with four tapestries separated by three spaces ($4 + 3 + 7$). The number 4 is conducive to the earth, the four cardinal directions and the corners of a square, a reference to the term "earthly being." God's word is given to us in an earthly setting, expressed in the (how many?) FOUR Gospels! Could it be that da Vinci's interest in numerology is being used in a symbolically pictured scene that communicates the nature of God in how man can know and communicate with him? Can the interaction between heaven (the 3's) and the earth (the 4's) and their multiples (7 & 12) be a way that the Bible is telling man how to speak to God? Consider events and things we associate with these numbers: the 12 apostles, the 12 days of Christmas, three days in the tomb, 7 days of creation as well as the four gates, the four living creatures, etc. Can numbers really be related to nature and therefore God? It appears da Vinci had his own perspective on this.... What do you think? Next week: da Vinci's interpretation of the Last Supper.



Image by Freepik

FAST by eating just one meal today (light snacks are ok).

PRAY that when you find yourself feeling alone, you look for comfort not in society but in God.

GIVE time today to someone in your life you know is lonely.

During this week, please reflect on this from St. John Paul II:

"Lent is a time of truth.

Christians, called by the Church to prayer, penance, fasting and self-sacrifice, place themselves before God and recognize themselves; they rediscover themselves."

– St. John Paul II from his Lenten Message, 1981



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel Jesus is quite clear in his message: "bear fruit or be cut down." This Lent we are called to cultivate and fertilize our spiritual lives through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through your almsgiving you are performing a good work; far greater than you think. Know that your nickel, dime or quarter is multiplied by the coins placed by others in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box.

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 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 5th and 6th. 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





FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS!

A few weeks ago work was begun on replacing the deteriorating wooden ramp that borders the Columbarium. The old ramp 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

*St. Paschal Baylon
(1540 - 1592)*

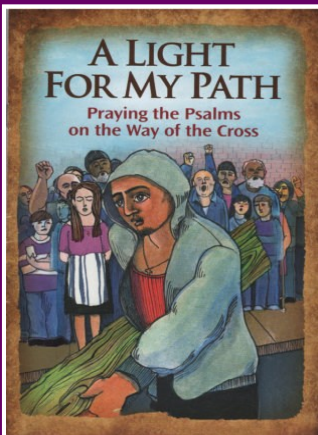
*“ God is as really present
in the consecrated Host
as He is in
the glory of Heaven. ”*

SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

The
CHOSEN
SEASON ONE



BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION
PARISH RESOURCE CENTER



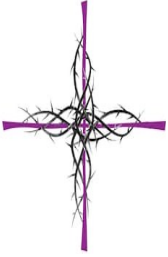
Friday, April 4

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.

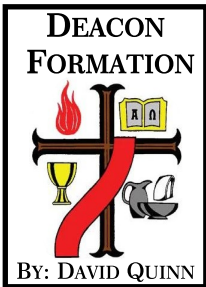
-Based on Psalm 143:4, 6a



STATIONS OF THE CROSS - FRIDAY 3/28/2025 - 5:00 PM

FACILITATED BY OUR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION MINISTRY 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.



BECOMING A DEACON

I deeply appreciate the interest and support everyone has shown me as I go through the Deacon Formation program. I know people are curious as to what happens with this program so I thought I would give some insight occasionally on what is involved in the program.

The formation program boils down to one word – discernment. Participants are figuring out if becoming a deacon is right for them while the diocese figures out if each participant is a good fit for being a deacon. Ideally, at the end of five and a half years, both the participants and the diocese commit to each other and we are ordained as permanent deacons. To help with our discernment, the program initially focuses on spirituality, asking the Holy Spirit to point us in the direction where we can best serve the Lord and His Church. That direction may or may not be as part of the diaconate. Please pray for me and all the other participants remaining in the formation program to find the direction the Lord wants them to follow.



SECOND COLLECTION ON MARCH 29 & 30 FOR CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), is the international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Bishops and Catholic community. With your generosity, CRS is helping to break the cycle of poverty in more than 90 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. CRS also provides emergency relief in the wake of natural disasters. Your donation also assists the work of the U.S. Bishops' Offices of International Justice and Peace, Migration and Refugee Services and Pastoral Care, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, and the relief work of the Holy Father. Thank you for your generous donation to this very important organization!



THANK YOU ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISHIONERS!

We have 25 households participating in the Kroger Community Rewards Program, and during the months of December, January and February those households have earned the church

\$54.07

If you are not yet participating in this wonderful program, please visit Kroger's website and get started!

You shop. Our church gets "free" money!

Direct your browser to <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards> (Our NPO number is XP941).

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
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: dioknoxretreat.org; regnumchristi.com Online: CatholicDads.org
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: 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 (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: ascensiontourstravel@gmail.com Phone: 800-351-9893

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



Image by pngtree.com

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!



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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