

#### MARCH 9, 2025 FIRST 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

Sunday 9:00AM

HOLY MASS: Saturday 4:00PM (Vigil Mass) The Rosary is prayed 35 minutes before each Weekend Mass 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

DAILY MASS: MON, TU, TH & FRI:

#### PARISH MINISTRY TEAM

PASTOR ......Rev. Antonio Giraldo GARDENS & GROUNDS.......llene Rainwater **DEACON**......Deacon Jim Schmall FACILITIES ......David Girard OFFICE MANAGERS ......Katrina Allocco & Social Media/Website ......JoAnne Romer-Aylward PASTORAL CARE .....Suzie Fay Lesa Schmall

BOOKKEEPER.....Kathleen Halligan St. Clare Gift Shop ..........Camilla Sorrell

LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTOR .....JoAnne Romer-Aylward COLUMBARIUM.....Bob Eberhardt DIR. OF RELIGIOUS ED.....Julie Dew WELCOMING. EVENTS & .......All Parishioners

RCIA/OCIA ......Dc. Jim Schmall SOCIALS TEAM (WEST)

ART & ENVIRONMENT ......Norene O'Donnell

#### 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 complet-

ed 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.

Contact the office a minimum of six months prior to the wedding for planning and preparation. MARRIAGE:

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Anyone entering the hospital or in serious ill health is encouraged to be anointed.

Please email Microsoft Word articles to sfabulletin7717@gmail.com with the subject of BULLETIN DEADLINE:

"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	3/10	8:30 AM	Dang ThiSinh	
Tue	3/11	8:30 AM	Susan & David Taylor	
Wed	3/12	NO MORNING MASS		
Thu	3/13	8:30 AM	Joyce Welsh	
Fri	3/14	8:30 AM	RCIA Candidates	
Sat	3/15	4:00 PM	JR Bell, Natalie & Joseph Watson	
Sun	3/16	9:00 AM	John Peychal	

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, 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, 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**

Mon	3/10	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning	
Tue	<b>3/11</b> 4:00 PM		RCIA - PRC	
Wed	3/12			
Thu	3/13			
Fri	3/14	5:00 PM	Stations of the Cross	
Sat	3/15	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass	
Sun	3/16	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

#### THE DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX SURVEY IS OPEN THIS WEEK!



Disciple Maker Index

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:

DEACON'S NOTES

#### 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 Fim



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

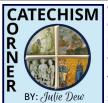
been with us since the first session! Bring your Bible and a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Questions? Please contact Deacon Jim: sfadeacon7717@gmail.com OR 901-493-2123.





Remember the sufferings of Christ, the storms that were weathered...
the crown that came from those sufferings
which gave new radiance to the faith.

- St. Thomas Becket - Martyr and Patron Saint of Clergy



Welcome to Lent, St. Francis! During this Liturgical Season in the Corner, we will be "reflecting" on the great painting of Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper. In this corner, I would like, for all of us to get to know this great painter of the Renaissance a little bit, so, I'm going to "bore" you with some history here......

Vinci, LEONARDO DI SER PIERO DA, Florentine painter, sculptor, architect, engineer, and scholar, and one of the greatest minds of the Renaissance. Leonardo's full name at birth was simply Leonardo. As an illegitimate child, he was fortunate that his father, Ser Piero, acknowl-

edged him and let him be known as Leonardo di ser Piero. (Ser Piero was a bit of a ladies' man, it seems. Leonardo was his eldest child, born of Caterina, a servant girl. Ser Piero went on to become a notary, marry four times and sire nine more sons and two daughters.)

Leonardo was born in Anchiano, a tiny hamlet near the slightly larger hamlet of Vinci, near the Metropolitan City of Florence, Tuscany, central Italy. Ser Piero's family, however, were big fish in the little Vinci pond, and so tagged "da Vinci" ("of" or "from Vinci") after their names. - thoughtco.com

When Leonardo became an apprentice, in order to distinguish himself from other various Tuscan Leonardos in 15th-century Florence, and because he had his father's blessing to do so, Leonardo was known as "Leonardo da Vinci." When he traveled beyond the Republic of Florence to Milan, he often referred to himself as "Leonardo the Florentine." But "Leonardo da Vinci" continued to stick with him, whether he wanted it to or not.

Now, we all know what happened after this. Eventually, Leonardo became very famous. As famous as he was in his lifetime, his fame kept snowballing after his death in 1519. He became so famous, in fact, that for the past 500 years he has had no need of a last name, let alone any indication of his father's hometown. In historic art circles he is simply known, as he started out in this world, Leonardo. The "Le-" part is pronounced "Lay-." Any other Leonardo needs a surname slapped on, up to and including "DiCaprio." There is but **one** "Leonardo," though. "Da Vinci," then as now, indicates "from Vinci" - a distinction shared by many thousands of people born and raised in Vinci. If one felt utterly compelled to use "Da Vinci," he or she would need to be certain to write "da" (the "d" is not capitalized) and "Vinci" as two separate words. (I never knew this!)

Here's some more interesting information about our featured artist: While his fame initially rested on his achievements as a painter, he has also become known for his notebooks, in which he made drawings and notes on a variety of subjects, including anatomy, astronomy, botany, cartography, painting, and paleontology.

As we journey through the Season of Lent, I would like to offer you some suggestions for your PAF (**P**rayer, **A**Imsgiving, and **F**asting).

**PRAYER:** Take time to pray at a time you normally wouldn't.

ALMSGIVING: Lend a hand or a kind word to someone who seems to have things going wrong for them.

**Fast from unhealthy habits today.** 



**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE** 

When I taught in the Catholic School System in south Florida, I coordinated, with another talented teacher, the morning announcements. I share with you now a prayer we would recite during Lent:

My Crucified Jesus:

I adore the wounds in thy sacred hands, with sorrow deep and true.

May every work of my hands today, be an act of love for You.

I adore the wounds in thy sacred feet, with sorrow deep and true.

May every step I take today, be an act of love for You.

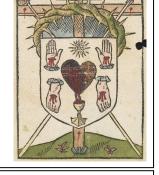
I adore the wounds in thy sacred head, with sorrow deep and true.

May every thought of mine today, be an act of love for You.

I adore the wounds in thy sacred heart, with sorrow deep and true.

May every beat of my heart today, be an act of love for You.

Have a blessed week St. Francis!



#### THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



In today's Gospel, Jesus overcomes the temptations to wealth, power and esteem. As we begin Lent, may we open our hearts to the grace of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God's love this Easter.

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







### SACRISTAN TRAINING IN SHEA HALL SATURDAY, MARCH 15 - 10:00 AM



Sacristan training, led by Deacon Jim and Kathy Meyerkord will be held for all current and prospective Sacristans on Saturday, 3/15/2025.

If you are interested in joining the ministry or would like to find out more about it, please join us. All are welcome to attend!

Sacristans are Liturgical Ministers who prepare and oversee the worship environment for our Masses each weekend and for special occasion Masses for weddings, funerals, and Holy Days. This preparation occurs "behind the scenes" but is a very necessary and important liturgical ministry. Sacristans are the ministers responsible for setting the altar before Mass, clearing it after Mass, and cleaning and storing the sacred vessels after Mass. Detailed information on sacristan duties at St. Francis of Assisi Church can be found on our parish website under the *Ministries* drop-down menu.

Please contact Kathy Meyerkord (630-698-5563 (cell) or kmmeyerkord@gmail.com) to RSVP or to get more information.



#### **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. The cost of this entire project will be approximately \$20,000. Any donation you can

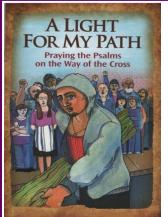
make to Directed Giving, offsetting this cost, will be greatly appreciated. Simply deposit your contribution in the regular weekly collection and note Directed Giving on the memo line of your check, or deliver your check to the Parish Office. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to either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

# INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

St. Angela of Foligno (1248 - 1309)

"If we paused for a moment
to consider attentively
what takes place
in this Sacrament,
I am sure that the thought of
Christ's love for us
would transform the coldness
of our hearts
into a fire of love and gratitude."





# 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

# FOR LENT FOR LIFE PARALAY CUARESMA POR LAVIDA CUSRICE BOWL

#### "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 microfinance 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.

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. Some of the qualifications are High School diploma or equivalent, previous, and proven administrative experience in an office setting, proficient in Microsoft Suite, Bi-lingual is a plus. 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.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS		
1/19-4/13/2025	GriefShare Weekly grief support group Highland Manor Inn - Townsend, TN	E-mail:	GriefShare.org/findagroup plsteele68@yahoo.com (text) 865-306-1956	
3/15/2025	Smoky Mtn. Deanery CCW Meeting Mass at 10:00 AM, Lunch, induction and awards following		https://kdccw.org/ irainwater@hotmail.com 865-748-1873	
3/15/2025	Sacristan Training Shea Hall 10:00 AM	E-Mail:	stfrancistownsend.org kmmeyerkord@gmail.com 630-698-5563	
3/15/2025	Secular Franciscan Order "Come & See" St. John Neumann Church 12:00 Noon	Phone:	SaintsFrancisAndClareKnoxville.com Terry 423-533-2360 Jean 865-250-3005	
3/22/2025	Women's Lenten Retreat 7:30 AM with Sarah Hart; Mass with Bishop Beckman - Cleveland, TN	Phone:	See poster in Shea Hall; Scan QR Code 423-943-4147 (Pam Morgan) <b>OR</b> : 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 dioknoxretreat.org; regnumchristi.com CatholicDads.org	
4/8/2025	WES Team (WEST) Meeting Noon - Shea Hall		N/A StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Church Office: 865-448-6070	
4/20/2025	2 Easter Sunday Masses This Year: 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM	E-Mail:	www.stfrancistownsend.org StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Church Office: 865-448-6070	
4/24-26/2025	Knoxville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Biennial Convention St. Mary's Church - Johnson City, TN	Phone:	www.kdccw.org <u>AND</u> See poster in Shea Hall 407-252-0320 (Karen Agnello) <b>OR</b> : 901-485-1965 (Amy Schaefer)	
5/4/2025	Cinco de Mayo Potluck (on SUNDAY) Shea Hall 4-7 PM	Online: E-mail: Phone:		
9/20-10/9/2025	11-Day Jubilee Pilgrimage to the Shrines of Italy with Fr. Bill McNeeley	E-mail:	Scan QR code on poster in Shea Hall ascensiontourstravel@gmail.com 800-351-9893	



#### STATIONS OF THE CROSS - FRIDAY 3/14/2025 - 5:00 PM

## FACILITATED BY THE SACRISTANS & ALTAR SERVER MINISTRIES 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 inserted in last week's bulletin, on the website, and on the bulletin board in Shea Hall. There may also be some copies on the table in the church vestibule.



On Ash Wednesday we began our 40-day liturgical and penitential season marked by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving – all with the goal of preparing our hearts and ourselves for Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday (April 17<sup>th</sup> this year). Since the season is closely associated with the transition from winter to spring in the northern hemisphere, the word "lent" can actually be traced back to the Anglo-Saxon word "lencten," meaning "springtime."

Just as we are called to fast and abstain from certain foods in Lent in a spirit of penance and self-discipline, so too in the liturgy we "give up," for a time, some of

the more joyful and glorious element of the Mass. One of the most notable things we give up is the Gloria - which we sing every Sunday outside of Advent and Lent, as well as every feast day and Holy Day of Obligation. We also give up the singing of the Alleluia, an acclamation derived from a Hebrew expression of praise to God. We sing Alleluia to thank and glorify God. During Lent, however, our focus is on the spiritual journey of Old Testament Israel toward the coming of Christ and the salvation of humankind through his death on the cross and the resurrection on Easter Sunday. This puts us on a spiritual journey toward the second coming of Christ, and in order to emphasize the penitential nature of that journey and the posture and attitude we must cultivate, we remove the Alleluia, and the Gloria from the Mass.

In terms of other music during the season of Lent, we will chant portions of our service music in Latin (the Sanctus and the Agnus Dei) and Deacon Jim will lead us during the penitential act in Greek with the Kyrie, Eleison. Again, this is to highlight a sort of fasting from the feasting we normally do during more joyful seasons; however, this principal also allows us to focus more intently on the sung prayer of the assembly.

"Reverent Silence" will play a more prominent role in our liturgies during Lent so as to support a focus of prayer and worship throughout Lent, and heighten the exuberant joy when Easter arrives.

Ultimately, the Church prescribes all of this because, above all, it wants Easter to feel like Easter! If you find yourself "missing" certain things during Lent, that's good – that's exactly the point! That's what makes Easter all the more joyful when He is Risen from the grave!

Contributing sources for this article:

Bart McDonough, https://ourladyofthepines.org and Kim Mandelkow, https://catholicherald.org



Smoky Mountain Deanery Council of Catholic Women (CCW)

Spring Meeting - Saturday, March 15, 2025

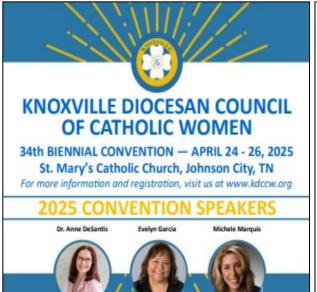
Sacred Heart Cathedral

10:00 AM Mass in honor of the First Golden Rose Awardee and Installation of new Deanery Officers

A luncheon will be served following Mass in the Shea Room (the Paraclete Building). Induction of new officers and awards are to be presented at the end of the luncheon.

The new "Golden Rose" award, which celebrates the outstanding young women of our parishes, will be announced. FYI: our Grace Rapien is one of the candidates! Also on the agenda is induction of new officers, Suzie Fay will be the new Vice President and Ilene Rainwater will be Deanery Secretary. Please RSVP to Ilene Rainwater by March 12 to reserve your lunch plate. (Text: 865-748-1873 or Email: irainwater@hotmail.com). Come and meet new friends in our Deanery and support our three Parish-

Email: irainwater@hotmail.com). Come and meet new friends in our Deanery and support our three Parishioners. EVERY woman in the Smoky Mountain Deanery is welcome to attend and celebrate our Golden Rose Nominees.





#### **SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER**

March 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon St. John Neumann Church (in the school library)

"Come & See" about the Secular Franciscan Order that originated

with St. Francis. It is made up of lay men and women, married or single, who follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis. Secular Franciscans make a commitment to follow the Gospel and go from Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel. For Questions call Terry at 423-533-2360 or Jean at 865-250-3005 or go to the website:

#### SaintsFrancisAndClareKnoxville.com

"Preach the Gospels everyday and only if you have to... use words." - St. Francis of Assisi

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 distributed in a couple of weeks, but for now please feel free to plan your Easter Sunday brunches, family time, and egg hunts accordingly!