



**APRIL 13, 2025
PALM SUNDAY**

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

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 4/14 8:30 AM John & Yvonne Peychal
Tue 4/15 8:30 AM Shirley Keeven
Wed 4/16 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 4/17 **NO MORNING MASS**
Fri 4/18 **NO MORNING MASS**
Sat 4/19 8:15 PM
Sun 4/20 9:00 AM

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): Pat Sanders, Doreen Mancuso, Naomi Nwadike, David Holmes, Amy Frink, Myra Montero, 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, Sue Corsini

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!

SANCTUARY CANDLE: *The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week in memory of Shirley Keeven given by Laurie*



Trower. 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.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon 4/14 9:00 AM Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue 4/15 4:00 PM RCIA - PRC
Wed 4/16 6:00 PM Easter Vigil Practice
Thu 4/17 7:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper
 8:00 PM Adoration - Shea Hall (until 10:00 PM)
Fri 4/18 3:00 PM Stations of the Cross
 7:00 PM Good Friday Service
Sat 4/19 8:15 PM Easter Vigil Mass
Sun 4/20 9:00 AM Easter Sunday Mass
 11:30 AM Easter Sunday Mass



Good Friday
4/18/25
&
Easter Monday
4/21/25



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP
 Open after weekend Masses and by request/appointment after daily Mass

HOLY WEEK: DO NOT LET THE STONES CRY OUT



DEACON'S
NOTES

Palm Sunday has long-lasting memories for everyone. What stands out most about this day? Is it the red color of the vestments and the sudden departure from purple? Is it the palms we all receive? Years ago, people use to braid them into a cross and wear it on their clothes for the rest of the day or take the palms home and keep them behind a religious picture or crucifix on the wall. Is it the long reading of the Passion that recounts for us the details of Christ's suffering?

The most striking part of Palm Sunday for me and for many people is the shift from the acclaim the crowd gives Jesus on His way to Jerusalem to their call for His death in the Passion. It reminds me of the scene from the Broadway play, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which depicts Jesus entering Jerusalem while people wave palms and sing "Hosana, hey Sanna, Sanna, Sanna," which is a form of praise and adoration. Caiphias disrupts this praise by singing "Tell the rabble to be quiet, we anticipate a riot." Jesus counters with "If every tongue were still, the noise would still continue. The rocks and stones themselves would start to sing." In the final verse, the crowd's devotion shifts towards acknowledging the inevitability of Jesus' fate and the universal accessibility of salvation.

The same people who laid their cloaks on the road as a "red carpet" for Him, who waved palms like flags for Him, who shouted Hosanna or "hooray" as Jesus passed, would later turn on Him. We can look on them condescendingly until we realize that we are like those people. For us this shift takes the form of a split between the faith we profess and the lives we live. Are we faithful to Jesus and His Church when things become difficult, or are we "fair-weather" Catholics?

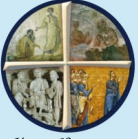
The drama of Palm Sunday is not only an event of 2000 years ago, it is our drama today, the split between faith and life. The people of Palm Sunday are none other than ourselves. My friends, today we begin our journey with the Lord up to Jerusalem. We begin our Holy Week, the week when we will walk with the Lord in his passion. But I tell you this: if you are not here to be heard, the stones themselves will cry out! If you are not here to weep and lament with our Lord on Holy Thursday in the garden, the stones will cry out. If we are not here on Good Friday to venerate the cross, to do the hard but rewarding work of liturgy, to sing the words, "Were you there when they crucified my Lord," the stones will weep and mourn. If you are not here at the Easter Vigil to sing for the first time in forty days the Easter Alleluia, the stones themselves will shout the praises of God. And if you are not here on Easter Sunday to shout, "He is risen. Indeed, he is truly risen!" the stones will do it for you!

If you keep silent this Holy Week, the stones will cry out! My friends, don't let the stones take your place during the Triduum. Don't let the stones shame you in your absence, or in your silence. If your voices are not heard in the days ahead, the stones will cry out!



CATECHISM

ORNER



BY: *Hlene Rainwater*

Let us begin this Blessed Holy Week with the words spoken through the prophets:
"Say to daughter Zion, 'behold, your king comes to you, meek and riding on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden'" (Matthew 21:5).

And as we all know, this is exactly what happened with people crying out "Hosanna to the Son of David" as they followed Him into Jerusalem, never suspecting that in a few days Jesus would be sentenced to death by crucifixion. The next few days would reveal many things.

During the past couple of weeks, the focus has been on Da Vinci's Fresco of *The Last Supper*, highlighting his interpretation of one moment that occurred during this meal, the revelation that one of them would betray Him. Granted this was a most confusing and troubling situation for the Apostles, it was not the main purpose for this final gathering.

Holy Thursday, the day of the last supper, begins the Triduum, followed by Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. On the eve of the last supper, as Christ and the Apostles gathered to share the Passover meal, the lives of many would be changed forever.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC-1340) states: *By celebrating the Last Supper with his apostles in the course of the Passover meal, Jesus gave the Jewish Passover its definitive meaning, Jesus passing over to his father by his death and resurrection, the new Passover, is anticipated in the Supper and celebrated in the Eucharist, which fulfills the Jewish Passover and anticipates the final Passover of the Church in the glory of his Kingdom.* It is at this table Christ gives us the most precious gift of all, the Eucharist, traditionally known as the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. In part, the Glossary of the Catechism defines the Eucharist as "The ritual, sacramental action of thanksgiving to God which constitutes the principal Christian liturgical celebration of and communion in the Pascal mystery of Christ."

"Do this in memory of me" (CCC-1341) *The command of Jesus to repeat his actions and words "until he comes" does not only ask us to remember Jesus and what he did. It is directed at the liturgical celebration, by the apostles and their successors, of the 'memorial' of Christ, of his life, of his death, of his Resurrection, and of his intercession into the presence of the Father.*

(CCC-1357) *We carry out this command of the Lord by celebrating the 'memorial of his sacrifice'. In so doing, "we offer to the Father" what he has himself given us: the gifts of his creation, bread and wine which, by the power of the Holy Spirit and by the words of Christ, have become the body and blood of Christ. Christ is thus really and mysteriously made "present".*

I could continue with several more passages from the Catechism relating to the Eucharist, but the depth of importance and meaning of the Eucharist would be diminished. I therefore invite you to read for yourself Chapter 1, Part 2, Article 3. Having never really read the Catechism (I assumed it would be pretty boring) I found myself understanding more deeply just what our faith is about. Maybe, unbeknownst to me until now, this is my Lenten journey.

May God Bless us and keep us in His hands during this Holy Week.

"Christ put on the cloak of humanity for His 33 years on earth, being present to us physically, and constantly reminding that He had come to serve and not to be served. In the Eucharist, He remains physically present, and humbles Himself even further by serving as our food and drink. And all he asks in return is our hearts."



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today is Palm Sunday and the beginning of the holiest of Christian weeks. Let us pray for the grace to take up our own cross and to follow Jesus through death to new life. As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, know that you are a sign of God's love to those who carry their cross of suffering and pain.

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.

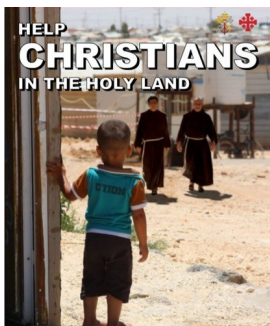
SVDP meets the 1st and 3rd
Wednesdays of the month at 5:00 PM
in the PRC. All are welcome to attend!

Thank You
for your continued support of SVDP!

SVDP APRIL "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY



PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY (4-18-25) COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND



A second collection will be taken up on Good Friday, April 18th, in support of the Pontifical Collection for the Holy Land. This collection, in the words of Paul VI is "not only for the Holy Places but above all for those pastoral, charitable,

educational, and social works which the Church supports in the Holy Land for the welfare of their Christian brethren and of the local communities." Your generosity also assists those such as the Franciscans who have been in the Holy Land since 1209 caring for the poor, protecting the Holy shrines, and keeping the light of Christianity alive. Thank you for your generous contribution to this collection for the Holy Land.



“ *The desert is the place of hunger, thirst, and the spiritual combat. It is vitally important to withdraw to the desert in order to combat the dictatorship of a world filled with idols that gorge themselves on technology and material goods, a world dominated and manipulated by the media, a world that flees God by taking refuge in noise.* ”

- Robert Cardinal Sarah
*From his book, The Power of Silence:
Against the Dictatorship of Noise*

TWO MASSES ON EASTER SUNDAY:



9:00 AM

AND 11:30 AM

**BE THE YES
BEHIND THEIR YES**
EASTER SUNDAY COLLECTION
TO SUPPORT SEMINARIAN EDUCATION



**SECOND COLLECTION ON EASTER SUNDAY
TO SUPPORT SEMINARIAN EDUCATION**

On Easter Sunday, a second collection will be taken up in support of Diocesan Seminarian Education. Though we are one of the smallest dioceses in the U.S., we are blessed with a rich harvest of vocations to the priesthood. Presently, we have 7 seminarians enrolled in studies - 2 who, God willing, will be ordained to the priesthood shortly. And it is our hope that we will have 10 seminarians for the 2025-26 academic year. But with this wonderful blessing comes a financial challenge. The cost of

educating just one seminarian is over \$50,000. Your investment in the future of the priesthood is greatly needed to help guarantee the growth of the Catholic faith in East Tennessee. Please be generous in supporting our Diocesan Seminarians in their formation as they endeavor through the grace of God to become your future priests.

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.”

SACRAMENTALS FOR THE EASTER FIRE



What should we do with unwanted, old or broken figurines of saints or the Holy Family, rosaries, crucifixes, blessed palms, holy pictures, candles or vials of holy water? These articles are sacramentals i.e. objects set apart or blessed by the Church for the purpose of sanctifying our lives. Religious articles which have been blessed by a priest or a deacon should be disposed of reverently when they reach the end of their useful life. Alt-

hough it is not a sin to throw them away, there are more respectful and reverent ways of disposing of these sacramentals:

- **Give them away** to others who would appreciate and use them: if the sacramentals are not damaged or broken and in relatively good condition, they could be donated to overseas missions or Catholic organizations that minister to the disadvantaged or the needy.
- **Burn them:** old palms and candles, religious pictures and prayer cards, books and cloths can be burnt. **We invite you to bring your sacramentals to church and place them in the basket in the foyer for burning in our Easter fire on Holy Saturday.** If possible, the ashes together with any remaining bits unburnt should be collected and then buried.
- **Bury them:** if the articles cannot be burnt, then they should be buried in the ground in a place where they are likely to be left undisturbed. The tradition of burying holy items is based on the belief that an object blessed in the name of the Holy Trinity should be returned to God.

STATIONS — OF THE — CROSS

GOOD FRIDAY 4/18/2025 - 3:00 PM

FACILITATED BY OUR USHER MINISTRY

TIME TO TURN IN YOUR RICE BOWLS!



EASTER SUNDAY - 4/20/25

Quatro

Circo De Mayo

PotLuck

We're partying a day early!

May 4, 2025 4:00 - 7:00 PM Shea Hall

See the poster in Shea Hall for details and sign-up!

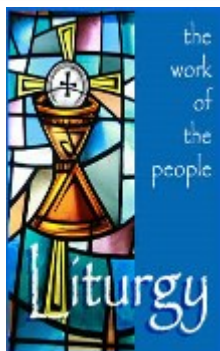
LITURGICAL MINISTRIES QUARTERLY SIGN-UPS FOR MAY, JUNE AND JULY

It is time for Liturgical Ministries signup! The signup sheets are on the counter in Shea Hall. Please take a few minutes after Mass this weekend and next to sign up for your ministry/ministries.

If you would like more information about our Liturgical Ministries, please check out our website, the bulletin board in Shea Hall or contact one of our ministry heads:




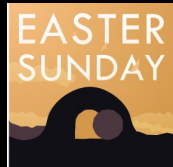
Lectors	Martha Frink	865-556-4684	marthafrink00@gmail.com
EMHC*	Karen Messenger	225-572-9400	komessenger@gmail.com
Ushers	Paul Czerniewski	847-877-7347	paul.czerniewski@gmail.com
Sacristans	Kathy Meyerkord	630-698-5563	kmmeyerkord@gmail.com
Altar Servers	Dan Meyerkord	708-846-4144	dkam27@sbcglobal.net

* Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion



UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
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.kdccw.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: Sign-up Sheets in Shea Hall E-mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070
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

	Holy Thursday	April 17 th	Mass of the Lord's Supper	7:00 PM	
	Good Friday	April 18 th	Stations of the Cross	3:00 PM	
	Good Friday	April 18 th	Good Friday Service	7:00 PM	
	Holy Saturday	April 19 th	Easter Vigil Service	8:15 PM	
	Easter Sunday	April 20 th	Easter Sunday Mass	9:00 AM	
	Easter Sunday	April 20 th	Easter Sunday Mass	11:30 AM	

SECOND COLLECTION - CATHOLIC HOME MISSION APPEAL APRIL 26 & 26, 2025



STRENGTHENING
the **CHURCH AT HOME**

Please be generous in supporting the Catholic Home Missions Appeal on April 27. This collection helps to strengthen the Catholic Church in the United States in its 87 mission territories. Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its current and former territories struggle to meet basic pastoral need. As the Diocese of Knoxville is one of the smallest dioceses in the nation, it is a direct beneficiary of Catholic Home Missions assistance. Your generosity in support of this appeal is greatly appreciated for the additional blessings it brings to our diocese. Thank you!

Easter Triduum Services
April 17-19, 2025
One liturgy celebrated over the period of 3 days



The Easter Triduum (pronounced **Tríd • yoo • uhm**) services at St. Francis of Assisi Church are three of the most moving, reverent, and spiritually rewarding services in the entire Liturgical Year. If you have never attended an Easter Triduum service here at St. Francis, you owe it to yourself and your family to attend! Come be a part of your St. Francis parish family this Holy Week and share in the Easter Triduum experience on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil—one liturgy celebrated over the period of 3 days.

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 17TH 7:00 PM: The Mass of the Lord's Supper begins at 7:00 PM by gathering in reverent silence. This very special Mass includes a foot washing service wherein we are reminded of Jesus bending down to wash the feet of his disciples. At the end of communion the Eucharist is transferred, in procession, to Shea Hall where it will be available for adoration until **10:00 PM**. Please come and worship as a parish family during this time of adoration.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH AT 3:00 AND 7:00 PM: We gather again on Good Friday in reverent silence at 3:00 PM for Stations of the Cross and then again at 7:00 PM to begin our Good Friday service with the Liturgy of the Word - an interactive Passion reading. The Passion reading is followed by Veneration of the Cross where we are all given the opportunity to approach the cross of Christ and offer our Lenten prayers and petitions. Our Good Friday service concludes with a communion service. After communion, reverent silence will be maintained in the church for at least 30 minutes, after which time the church will be made ready for the Easter Vigil.

EASTER VIGIL, APRIL 19TH AT 8:15 PM: The Easter Vigil service begins at approximately 8:15 PM outside on the lawn (weather permitting) behind the Parish Resource Center with the Service of Light from the new Easter fire. At the conclusion of the Service of Light, we process into the church where we continue our celebration with the renewal of our baptismal promise, the reception of our new candidates into our faith, the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Immediately following the service we will have a welcoming reception in Shea Hall for our candidates .

The Easter Triduum:
The three-day celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ

Easter Flowers

This year's Easter Flowers that will adorn our sanctuary during the Easter Season have been donated by several parishioners in memory or honor of someone they know.

In Memory of

Mary Hopman	Ding Thi Sinh	Frank & Betty Czerniewski
Joseph & Betty Tkatch	John Jackson	Kathleen Denning
Katherine Kirkham	Ralph & Irene Meyerkord	Jesse & Gloria Colvin
Ted & Violet Jastrab	John & Theresa Peacock	Mario & Natalie Bummara
Joseph & Marlena Rytel	Tom & Rita Gaudern	Walter & Sue Fallat
Barry Rytel	Cam King	Jack Troupe
Normand & Therese Messier	Edward Murphy	Virginia Ann Welsh
Anne McTavish	Larene Anderson	Philip Peychal
Bill & Mollie Corsini	Earl & Catherine Miller	Rita & Ray Polak
Ralph & Herma Peychal	Norman & Lucille Weiland	Marion Ganley
Lois Zehnder	George Szekely	Edward Szekely
Lois & Elmer Szekely	Doug DuRussel	Mary Hopman
The Reddan Family	The Polak Family	

Friends & Relatives and those who gave their lives in service to others

In Honor of

Fr. Antonio Giraldo	Dc. Jim Schmall	John & Yvonne Peychal
Fr. Tony Mulderry	Claire martin	The Harbit Family
Fr. Eric Zeeger	Norene O'Donnell	The Davis Family

