



JANUARY 1, 2023 SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

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: Saturdays – Vigil Mass - 4:00PM
Sundays – 9:00AM

DAILY MASS: MON, TU, TH & FRI - 8:30AM
(NO MASS ON WEDNESDAYS)
Check bulletin/website for changes

CONFESSION: Saturdays before Mass:
3:00 - 3:40 (Church confessional)

Sundays Before Mass:
8:15 - 8:40 (Church confessional)

Confessions may also be scheduled by
calling the parish office for an appoint-
ment.

HOLY DAYS: Check bulletin or website

PARISH MINISTRY TEAM

PRIEST: Rev. Antonio Giraldo

OFFICE MANAGER: Kathy Meyerkord

BOOKKEEPER: Kathleen Halligan

LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTOR: JoAnne Romer-Aylward

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Julie Dew

RCIA/ADULT Ed: Bruce Boudin

WELCOMING, EVENTS AND SOCIALS (WEST): All

GARDENS & GROUNDS: Ilene Rainwater

FACILITIES: David Girard

SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE: JoAnne Romer-Aylward

PASTORAL CARE (SICK & HOMEBOUND): Suzie Fay

ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP: Camilla Sorrell

COLUMBARIUM: Bob Eberhardt

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 / welcoming member 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 parish priest a minimum of six months before the wedding to allow for marriage preparation formation.

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 sfbulletin7717@gmail.com with the subject of "Bulletin Announcement" by Tuesday 12:00PM. All submissions are subject to further editing to fit the format of the bulletin. THANKS!

PASTORAL CARE AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI: How can St. Francis of Assisi be of assistance/service to you & your loved ones? Please contact Suzie Fay at 423-829-5466 or contact the office at 865-448-6070.

MASS INTENTIONS: (Mass cards are available upon request)

The Rosary is prayed 35 minutes before each Weekend Mass

MON.	1/2	8:30 AM	NO DAILY MASS
TUES.	1/3	8:30 AM	Mark Shaw †
WED.	1/4		NO DAILY MASS
THURS.	1/5	8:30 AM	
FRIDAY	1/6	8:30 AM	Bob Frink †
SAT.	1/7	4:00 PM	Intentions of our Blessed Mother
SUN.	1/8	9:00 AM	Joe † & Mary † Petroskey

To schedule a Mass intention, (at least two weeks in advance), please contact the Parish Office via phone or email. 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, Connie Gooden, Pat Sanders, Doreen Mancuso, Julie Bobo, Ann Sorvillo, Naomi Nwadike, Charlotte Stalder, Deacon Larry West, Jerome Hebert, Debi Hartman, Joanna Dogid, Chris Owens, Christopher Kramer, Rosemary Barker, Gayle Burnison, Cam King, David Holmes, Rusty Treadway, Amy Frink, Myra Montera, Ann Rizzo, Elizabeth Quinn, Debbie Williams, Kim Brown, Mitisha Mosley, Robert Modisett, Tony Foster, Mary Sellers, Julie Schirack

SANCTUARY CANDLE: *In Memory of Lois & Elmer Szekely given by Michael & Julie Dew.* 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 \$10.00 for 1 week.



SANCTUARY FLOWERS: *No altar flowers are displayed during Christmas Season.* If you would like to donate to the sanctuary flowers fund in memory of or in honor of someone, please contact the Parish Office via phone or email. The cost is \$40.00 for two weeks.



SACRED ART RETREAT: MAKING MOSAICS

Are you looking for a unique way to rejuvenate your spiritual health? February 17-18, the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory NC is offering an "Art as Spiritual Therapy" retreat. Using hands-on activities, skilled presenters will invite you to explore the mosaics of your own life. Assemble your very own cross from personal mementos, and offer prayers through the ancient practice of making Pysanky eggs. Plus have time to enjoy our beautiful setting and some delicious full-course meals prepared by our own chef. Visit www.catholicconference.org/mosaics, email info@catholicconference.org, or call 828.327.7441 for more information.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	1/2	9:00 AM	OFFICE CLOSED Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	1/3		
Wed	1/4	5:00 PM	SVDP
Thu	1/5		
Fri	1/6	9:00 AM	Adoration
Sat	1/7	9:00 AM 4:00 PM	Adoration Vigil Mass
Sun	1/8	9:00 AM	Mass

MAINTENANCE FUND 2ND COLLECTION—1/7 & 1/8



**PASTOR'S
NOTES**

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

The first Day of the year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God. The passage we heard in the gospel today tells us that Mary “kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.”

This is not the first time Luke tells us that Mary pondered or treasured or reflected on things in her heart. It happened earlier when Gabriel shared the news that she was chosen to bear God’s Son. It will happen again when Joseph and Mary take the infant Jesus to be consecrated at the temple and are met by Simeon and Anna, who confirm that their child is the sign of salvation and fulfillment of their desires. And then, again, we will be told that Mary keeps all things in her heart when Joseph and Mary find their twelve-year-old son conversing with the rabbis, feeling quite at home in his “Father’s house.”

Mary participated in bringing the Word to flesh and must have spent a lifetime digesting what it all meant, taking out each of those treasured memories and perplexing encounters – of angels and shepherds and old men and rabbis – holding them up to the light to deepen her understanding, to help form her conscience and her actions, and to fuel her imagination for what God was doing. As Mary was pondering these things, no doubt she grew in the courage she would need to face whatever laid ahead for her and her son.

But let’s not leave our reflection there. Let’s ponder along with Mary what we have been told and have experienced of her son in our lives. If we have experienced the mercy of Jesus, how has it planted in us the gift of gratitude and the ability to extend mercy to others? If we have received healing, how has that experience with the Lord reshaped our life, our sense of purpose? If we have known darkness and fear, how has the presence of Jesus, the Savior, given us the strength to stand with courage and move forward? If we have been in need of correction, how have our paths been straightened? Let’s hold these moments in our hearts and, following the example of Mary, never tire of taking them out to reflect on their meaning.

As we begin a New Year, let’s commend our intercessions to Mary, “The Mother of God, and our mother.”

A REFLECTION FOR JANUARY 1 FROM “THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN”

The basic reason for loneliness is that man today has divorced himself from both love of God and love of neighbor.

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS! SAVE THE DATES!



WES Team Meeting:

Thurs., January 19; Noon; Shea Hall

Concert by Esteban Salazar & Friends:

Mon., February 20; 7 pm; Shea Hall/Church



JANUARY 6 & 7

MAINTENANCE FUND 2ND COLLECTION

Your donations made to this fund will help pay for the rising cost of maintaining our aging buildings and to continue with preventative maintenance. Thank you for your support of this fund!

CATECHISM CORNER

Good and happy Sunday! Having just celebrated the Nativity, the Church concludes the octave of Christmas by honoring Mary under her greatest title, the Mother of God. The CCC (paragraph 509) teaches, "Mary is truly 'Mother of God' since she is the mother of the eternal Son of God made man, who is God himself." On Christmas, we honor the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. On New Year's Day we honor His most holy Mother, the Queen of Peace. Pope Paul VI instituted New Year's Day as the "World Day of Peace." Mary has a special place in our world and in our hearts and she is forever striving to bring about peace through her Son.

The solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, is a holy day of obligation, and we celebrate this feast every year on January 1 in honor of her. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is a special time to celebrate the motherhood of Mary and the special grace she had in being the Mother of God! The title "Mother of God" comes from the Greek word "Theotokos" which means "God-bearer."

Since the beginning of Christianity, many Christians have had a special admiration of and intense trust in Mary. But unfortunately, that dedication is often misunderstood by other Christians. Some believe that we who have a special devotion to our heavenly Mother are idolizing Mary or worshiping her. But that is SO very far from the truth. Here's a little FYI: certain Christian faiths that acknowledge this tradition besides Catholicism are: High Church Lutheranism, Anglo-Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy and Oriental Orthodoxy.... Interesting don't you think? Marian devotion is rooted in the Christian Scriptures, which depict Mary of Nazareth as the mother of Jesus Christ and a significant member of the early Christian Church. The Gospel of John 2:1-12; 19:25-27, adds a symbolic dimension to Mary's maternity of Christ, a theme amplified in the apocalyptic language of Revelation 12. There are other scripture references that mention Mary: Matthew 1:20-23 or Luke 1:28 to name just a couple more!

I wish to share seven Beautiful Marian Devotions with you today as we honor her:

- Praying the Rosary: Given to Saint Dominic by an apparition of Blessed Mother in the 12th Century, the Rosary is an extremely powerful devotion.
- Wearing the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.
- Wearing a Miraculous Medal (my favorite!).
- Praying the Memorare.
- Participating in the Five First Saturdays Devotion.
- Joining the Legion of Mary.
- Planting a Mary Garden (We have a Rosary Garden, thank you Ilene Rainwater for your commitment to this prayer garden!).

On the cross, as Jesus was dying, He gave His mother to us all. John 19:26-27 tells us that when Jesus saw his mother there, as well as his beloved disciple who was standing close, he addressed her as "Woman, here is your son," and addressed the disciple as "Here is your mother." It was from that point on that this disciple welcomed her into his house. Following a straightforward reading of the scripture, Mary did not have other children, because if she did, they would have taken care of her. Mary loves each one of us in a special way as only a mother can, and as the most perfect of all mothers. We must never be afraid to approach Mary as the Mother of God and as our mother also. She is always waiting with open arms to welcome her children and to lead us closer to her Son.

This New Year's Day, remember that Our Blessed Lady is here with us, to guide us, and to help us face whatever life has to offer. May she wrap you in her mantel and keep you safe in her loving protection!



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today is the feast of Mary, Mother of God. Like Mary may we always treasure the events in our life and reflect on them in our heart.

Please remember to support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in 2023 so that together we can continue to bring comfort and peace to our brothers and sisters who are poor and suffering. May the peace and joy of the New Year be yours!

Reminder: When contributing to St. Vincent de Paul by check, please make the check payable to The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP). The Poor Box is located in the church vestibule.

SVDP meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 5:00 PM in the PRC! All Are Welcome!

Thank You for your continued support of SVDP!

SVDP JANUARY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"

Thank you so much for all the jugs of laundry detergent donated during December. For January, we are asking for **jars of jam or jelly—any flavor.**



WEEK 28—52 WAYS TO CARE FOR CREATION from laudatosimovement.org

The Magi accomplished their mission with no small amount of commitment and courage- certainly out of their comfort zones! In this time of resolutions, may we also consider committing our lives to a possibly unfamiliar journey- one of amending wasteful practices and acquiring a thirst for knowledge on how best to do this. Some helpful faith-filled resources are: laudatosimovement.org, catholicclimatecovenant.org, and laudatosiactionplatform.org. Pope Francis says, "I would like to show how faith convictions can offer Christians... ample motivation to care for nature and for the most vulnerable of their brothers and sisters. If the simple fact of being human moves people to care for the environment of which they are a part, Christians realize that their responsibility within creation, and their duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith" [LS 64]. May we always follow the star of God's guidance when caring for His creation!

The Care for Creation group meets twice a month on every other Tuesday at 3:00 pm at Our Lady of Fatima. All St. Francis parishioners are welcome to join them. For more information contact Mary Tankersley (maryetank@hotmail.com) or the OLOF Care for Creation Ministry, or laudatosimovement.org.

INVITATION TO VIEW "THE LETTER"

Our Lady of Fatima is showing "The Letter" at noon on Sunday, January 22. "The Letter" is a recently released 80-minute documentary about Pope Francis' invitation to a group of people from around the world impacted by development and climate change. They will be serving a light lunch (chili, soup, breads) and providing time for discussion after the film. Although very inspiring, the film is recommended for those over the age of 12 due to difficult topics. Any interested parishioners are very welcome to join OLOF. Let Mary Tankersley know (maryetank@totmail.co) or contact the OLOF Office at 865-982-3672.



**FIRST FRIDAY AND
FIRST SATURDAY
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Friday, January 6

Mass: 8:30 AM
Adoration: 9 AM—Noon
Benediction: Noon

Saturday, January 7

Mass: 8:30 AM
Adoration: 9-10 AM
Confessions: 9-10 AM
Benediction: 10 AM

If you are interested in committing to a Holy Hour for either First Friday or First Saturday, please contact Jackie Wagner at 330-807-8663.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—12/25/2022

The Nativity of the Lord
Attendance: 202

Sunday Offertory	\$ 4,269.77
Donation Box	0.00
Holy Days—Christmas	2,603.00
Other Donations*	0.00
Total Donations for the Week	\$ 6,872.77
Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 91,216.26
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations.....	91,936.26
Year-to-Date Donation Deficit**	\$ 720.00

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$ 0.00
Parish Charity	0.00
Retirement Fund for the Religious	0.00
Catholic Charities of East TN.	0.00
Total Non-Budget Donations	\$ 0.00

* Mass Intentions, Flowers, Candles, Facility Use, etc.

** Based on Year-to-Date Total Donations minus Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The Christmas Flowers on the Altar have been donated by several parishioners in memory or honor of someone they know.

In Memory of

Joe & Betty Tkatch
Ralph & Irene Meyerkord
Duane Johnson
Lois & Elmer Szekely
Lois Zehnder
Edward Szekely
David Reibold
Father Randy Musselman
Father Juan Torres
Judy Compton
Debbie Mannino
Molly Pickett

Joyce Troupe
Evelyn Provenzo
Grace Horth
Nick C. Provenzo
Norman & Lucille Weiland
Herma & Ralph Peychal
Virginia Anderson
Ann McTavish
Christopher Mularski
Josh Wimberly
Raymond & Dorothy Simons
Arnold & Marie Korth

In Honor of

Marion E. Ganley

