



JANUARY 8, 2023 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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.

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 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.	1/9	8:30 AM	NO DAILY MASS
TUES.	1/10	8:30 AM*	
WED.	1/11		NO DAILY MASS
THURS.	1/12	8:30 AM*	
FRIDAY	1/13	8:30 AM*	
SAT.	1/14	4:00 PM	Elmer Szekely †
SUN.	1/15	9:00 AM	Barbara Angle †

* PRAYER/COMMUNION SERVICE

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 Brian Barker given by Myron C. Downs.*

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: *In Memory of Brian Barker given by Myron C.*

Downs. 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	1/9	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	1/10		
Wed	1/11		
Thu	1/12		
Fri	1/13		
Sat	1/14	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	1/15	9:00 AM	Mass



PASTOR'S NOTES

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that,” Martin Luther King, Jr. said in one of his speeches, inspired by the Power of light and Love in the Bible. The image of light permeates our first reading today from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, “Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you.” Even in the midst of their darkness in exile, they were promised that, because of the glory of God in them, nations would walk by their light and kings by their shining radiance. Isaiah goes so far as to say to God’s people, “You shall be radiant,” and he paints a picture of the nations of the world bringing gifts to God’s people to honor the Lord that is manifest in them. This image is also brought to life in our responsorial psalm, with every nation of the world giving adoration to God, attracted to the light of God’s people, a light that is seen in justice and in care for the poor.

After the devastation of sin and darkening of humanity; after centuries of preparation and longings, which included not less than the founding of an entire people set apart for God; after wars, division, exile, and foreign domination; after a lowly birth to a Jewish couple; after all of this, the eternal Son of God was finally manifested to the nations. Herod became aware and feared for his kingdom. As the light of salvation dawned on the earth, the wise men of other nations recognized and paid homage to the one in whom all wisdom and dominion and power is found.

This revelation of Christ must have been powerful indeed! Sages from the East, men of learning, comfortable in their own kingdom, were drawn to him. What could have induced them to leave their homes and positions of prominence behind to undertake such journey? Only a work of God in their hearts could have moved them to recognize the one they were coming to worship.

Fathers of the Church have held that the sages’ gifts reveal that they recognized – even if only to a small extent – who this baby was: Gold was a tribute for a King; incense was offered as praise to God; and myrrh was ointment used to soothe the sufferings of humanity. Yet all three were presented to Jesus, for as true God and true man, he was given all authority and dominion as King and Lord. By offering these three gifts, the wise men pointed to Jesus’ authority, his deity, and the fact that the long-awaited salvation could only come about through his suffering and death.

What fruit was borne from the journey of these wise men! In their wake, generation after generation of the wise have bowed down before the humble child of Nazareth. Like the wealth of the nations in the prophet’s words (Isaiah 60:5) men and women from every age have laid their treasures before Christ, renouncing their apparent wealth of this world to embrace the real wealth that is found in repentance, faith, and humility.

Let us imitate the faith and trust of the first wise men. In prayer ask the Holy Spirit to reveal Christ to you. Ask the Spirit to help you pour out the wealth of your heart before Jesus and to accept his salvation and mercy. Our light has come. Let us arise before him and greet him as he deserves.

A REFLECTION FOR JANUARY 8 FROM “THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN”

You must remember to love people and use things, rather than to love things and use people.

CATECHISM CORNER

Happy and blessed Epiphany of the Lord Sunday! This feast commemorates the mysterious visit of the magi to the Baby Jesus. Who were the magi? What led them to visit Jesus? You may have some questions (I know I do!) about this feast, so I've compiled my questions and hope they will enlighten you!

- What does the word "Epiphany" mean? "Epiphany" simply means "manifestation." It comes from Greek roots that mean "to show, to display". An epiphany is thus a time when something is shown, displayed, or manifested to an audience.
- What is the feast of the Epiphany about? According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church 528: The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Savior of the world adored by the wise men (magi) from the East. The magi's (representatives of the neighboring pagan religions) coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations. Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship Him as Son of God and Savior of the world.
- When is Epiphany celebrated? This varies from country to country. In some countries, Epiphany is a holy day of obligation. Where that is the case, it is celebrated on January 6th. In the United States, Epiphany is not a holy day of obligation, and it is celebrated the first Sunday after January 1st.
- Who were the Magi? The concept of Magi encompasses a wide range of meanings, from the wholly positive to the wholly negative. They were regarded as "rulers of a distinctive religion," but at the same time their religious ideas were thought to be "strongly influenced by philosophy".
- Why did the magi come to see Jesus? They apparently had material of a prophetic nature, possibly from an eastern Jewish community, that allowed them to identify the birth of the new "king of the Jews" astronomically. They may have been especially motivated to come see this king of the Jews since there was an expectation at the time that a universal ruler would shortly come from Israel.
- Why did they go to Herod? I believe they assumed the newborn king would be a son of Herod — the current "king of the Jews." One would think this is where the future king would be born – I would think that, wouldn't you? Unfortunately, this played into Herod's paranoia for his throne and led to the slaughter of the innocents.
- What was the star? It is hard to know. Some question whether the star was a natural phenomenon at all, pointing out that it seems to lead the magi to Jerusalem, disappear, and reappear over the house in Bethlehem. But this isn't what Matthew says. He does not say that the star led them to Jerusalem. They merely report, in Matthew 2:2, that they had seen the new king's star "in the east" (back in their homeland), which is why they came to Jerusalem. Matthew 2:9 continues: When they had heard the king (Herod), they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. This does not necessarily mean that the star appeared to move in the sky in a way that stars don't ordinarily. Departing from Jerusalem at night, they may have noted on the short (6 mile) trip to Bethlehem that the star was in front of them in the sky — a coincidence arranged by divine providence. Then, when they got to the house, they noticed it was directly over the house — again, a coincidence arranged by divine providence but not necessarily an unusual motion for a star. Thus, the question of whether it could have been a natural phenomenon remains. It would be wrong to dismiss it on account of the theological character of the story.

The story of the wise men's star makes a similar point: it is not the star that determines the child's destiny, it is the child that directs the star.....hmmmm.

Have a most enlightened week where our God "manifests" His love to you – every day!



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In the spirit of the Magi, please put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box so that comfort and peace can once again be given to a newborn child.

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.**



Young Adult CATHOLIC Conference

WITH
Award-winning radio host, author and speaker

Katie Prejean McGrady

WHEN: FEBRUARY 18TH, 2023

WHERE: SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL HALL
711 S Northshore Dr, Knoxville, TN 37919

COST: \$35 ONLINE OR \$40 AT DOOR

REGISTER: DIOKNOX.ORG



YOUNG ADULT CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

All Young Adults (ages 18-35) are invited to our first- ever diocesan Young Adult Conference! You can expect a dynamic, one-day conference with the phenomenal guest speaker, **Katie Prejean-McGrady!** Katie is an award – winning author, international speaker, daily Catholic radio host, and podcaster. The conference will be held at the Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Cathedral Hall from 9 AM – 5 PM. Theme is Bold Faith in a Modern World. Cost is \$35 a person if you register online before the event or \$40 at the door. Lunch and refreshments are included. For questions, contact Brittany Garcia at bgarcia@dioknox.org or 865-776-9635.



The Diocese
of Knoxville
Office of Youth, Young Adults,
and Pastoral Youth Ministry

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.

**UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS!
SAVE THE DATES!**



A WES Team Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 19 at Noon in Shea Hall. We will be choosing our activities for 2023 in addition to finalizing details for the concert on February 20 (see below). All are welcomed and encouraged to come to the meeting. This is a group that is opened to all parishioners and we would welcome new ideas and help in planning these events. A light lunch will be served.

Concert by Esteban Salazar & Friends:
Monday, February 20; 7 pm; Shea Hall/Church
For those of you who were unable to attend the Christmas Party, Esteban provided the entertainment for us. Two of his friends will be visiting in February and they have agreed to put on a concert for us. This is open to all parishioners but you are welcome to bring friends and neighbors.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—1/1/2023

The Solemnity of Mary
Attendance: 148

Sunday Offertory	\$ 6,454.00
Donation Box	0.00
Holy Days—Christmas	65.00
Solemnity of Mary	340.00
Other Donations*	0.00
Total Donations for the Week	\$ 6,859.00
Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 98,075.26
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations.....	<u>95,472.27</u>
Year-to-Date Donation Deficit**	\$ 2,602.99

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$ 360.00
Parish Charity	0.00
Other	0.00
Total Non-Budget Donations	\$ 360.00

* Mass Intentions, Flowers, Candles, Facility Use, etc.
** Based on Year-to-Date Total Donations minus Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations

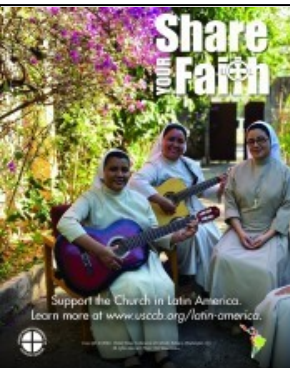
AN INSPIRATION FOR JANUARY 8 FROM “THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS”

The soul of one who serves God always swims in joy, always keeps a holiday, and is always in the mood for singing.—St. John of the Cross



**ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP
OPEN FOR BUSINESS
AFTER WEEKEND MASSES**

For a short time, we will have Christmas merchandise available in case you'd like to purchase something new for next year's gifts or home displays.



NATIONAL COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA.

The weekend of January 21 & 22 we will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. For many in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith. Your support for the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ. To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit www.usccb.org/latin-america.