



## FEBRUARY 12, 2023 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH  
7717 RIVER ROAD - TOWNSEND, TN 37882  
865 - 448 - 6070

WEBSITE: [STFRANCISTOWNSEND.ORG](http://STFRANCISTOWNSEND.ORG)  
E-MAIL: [STFRANCISTOWNSEND7717@GMAIL.COM](mailto: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](mailto: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

<b>MON.</b>	<b>2/13</b>	8:30 AM	Virginia Ann Welsh †
<b>TUES.</b>	<b>2/14</b>	8:30 AM	Edward B. † & Marion E. † Ganley
<b>WED.</b>	<b>2/15</b>		<b>NO DAILY MASS</b>
<b>THURS.</b>	<b>2/16</b>	8:30 AM	Saul Calderon †
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>2/17</b>	8:30 AM	John & Yvonne Pechal
<b>SAT.</b>	<b>2/18</b>	4:00 PM	Alice Rollins †
<b>SUN.</b>	<b>2/19</b>	9:00 AM	Ray † & Rita † Polak

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 Montero, Ann Rizzo, Elizabeth Quinn, Debbie Williams, Kim Brown, Robert Modisett, Tony Foster, Mary Sellers, Marion Ganley, Claire Cheadle, Bea Daily

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS:** *In Memory of Debbie Mannino given by Eric & Gail Simons.* 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.



**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 \$10.00 for 1 week.



**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>2/13</b>	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
<b>Tue</b>	<b>2/14</b>		
<b>Wed</b>	<b>2/15</b>	5:00 PM	SVDP
<b>Thu</b>	<b>2/16</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>2/17</b>		
<b>Sat</b>	<b>2/18</b>	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>2/19</b>	9:00 AM	Mass



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

The St. Clare Gift Shop has been refreshed. Most of the Christmas merchandise has been packed away for later this year. The Easter merchandise is now on display and the cases have been rearranged. If there is a particular item that you are interested in but that is not on display, please talk to Camilla Sorrell, Ilene Rainwater or Kathy Meyerkord. They will see if we would be able to obtain that item for you. We are also always welcome to suggestions for other merchandise that you feel may interest the parish and visitors. Thank you for all the support that has been given to the gift shop in the last year and a half.



## PASTOR'S NOTES

### 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In the Old Testament, God revealed himself and gave direction to his people through the law and the prophets. The law began with the Ten Commandments that were given to Moses on Mount Sinai (Exodus 20).

As the Word of God who came into the world, Jesus is the fulfillment of all the things God had spoken about through the law and prophets. The word “fulfill” means to make complete, or to complete what is lacking. In this text the word “fulfill” is expanded to include the perfecting of something that is imperfect. Jesus recognized that the laws of Moses and the prophets were good but imperfect. Thus he came “not to abolish them but to fulfill them” and said that anyone who relaxed even “the least of these Commandments... shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:17, 19).

Matthew’s gospel goes on to identify six areas in which the law was to be perfected and fulfilled: Murder, adultery, divorce, oaths, revenge, and love of enemies.

Jesus said that unless our righteousness exceeded that of the scribes and Pharisees, we would never enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:20). He was telling us that being right with the Lord does not depend solely on refraining from acts prohibited by the law, but on the condition of our hearts in our relationships with our neighbors and with God.

Instead of feeling self-satisfied because we are not murderers, let us examine our hearts to see the angers or resentments we may have toward others. Our resentments and hatred, even though we hold them in check, violate the greatest commandment Jesus taught us: Love of God and love of neighbor (Matthew 22: 37-40). Our proper response is clear: we need to repent and be reconciled (Matthew 5:24). It is not enough to say, “I should not be angry with my spouse or children or teacher. I should not be jealous of that co-worker. I should not resent my boss for correcting me or for not appreciating the things I do.” The kingdom of heaven calls for reconciliation, not just an acknowledgment of wrongful thoughts or acts.

Matthew’s Gospel portrays Jesus as the Messiah who inaugurated the long-awaited kingdom of God. In the Sermon on the Mount, he first describes the Beatitudes. Then, like a new Moses, Jesus introduced a series of principles that characterized the messianic reign.

In the light of this kingdom, Jesus taught his followers how to live so that the life of God would take root and grow in their lives. He spoke about many of challenges we face in our daily lives: The call to righteousness, turning away from anger, swearing, revenge, and the need to love our enemies.

To live up to this new way requires an inner work of the spirit. Through faith we can experience the power to love others as Christ loved us. Let us ask the Lord to give this grace to all of us.

## CATECHISM CORNER

A most blessed Sunday to everyone! When we present ourselves for Eucharistic Adoration, during this time of prayer, we simply trust in the Lord's love for us and the whole world. To further "talk" about prayer, I would like to suggest some "Tips for Praying":

- Find a quiet place and time. Prayer can be done anywhere but it is good to have a place that is conducive to relaxing and focusing our attention on God. Finding a regular time to pray each day can also be helpful to making prayer an important daily routine – it's all about routine.
- Calm yourself and put away distractions. It is important to be relaxed when we pray by finding a comfortable posture.
- Use formal prayers or speak what you feel to God, or a combination of each. It is important to note that there is no "right" way to pray. Experiment with styles and forms of prayer. Prayer is an ongoing, developing relationship with God.
- Take time to listen. God does speak to us in prayer but we need to listen with our hearts. Be open to what God is telling you rather than just on what you want to or expect to hear.
- Use the Bible in your prayer.
- Keep a journal of prayer.
- Have a proper attitude. Prayer requires openness to God and a desire to worship and get to know God better.

**Meditative Prayer:** Meditation is one of the many styles of prayer. This particular prayer is one of the ways used in "Lectio Divina"! Meditation engages our head and heart in seeking a deeper union with God. It enables us to slow down and quiet our hearts so that we can hear God's voice and communicate with God in a deeper way. Meditation can last a few minutes or hours. It can strengthen our relationship with God and allow us to get in touch with ourselves.

The process of meditation can involve several steps:

- Find the time and place which is conducive to meditation. It is important to pick a time when one is alert and able to focus and a comfortable and quiet place.
- Prepare to pray by relaxing your body so that you can devote your attention to prayer. Some people use muscle relaxing exercises and breathing exercises.
- Choose a word or phrase to focus your attention on God. Some people use "Jesus" or "Abba" or "Jesus saves" or "Jesus loves me."
- Connect the word or phrase with your breathing. Silently repeat the word or phrase in tune with your breathing. Let the word resonate within you. The repetition helps to focus on and remain open to God's presence. If you become distracted, focus again on repeating the word or phrase.

To strengthen our relationship with our God, just like any friend we need that time in conversation. I hope these "tips" help you!

Keep those questions coming at [jdewtn2018@att.net](mailto:jdewtn2018@att.net)!



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel Jesus says: "Whoever fulfills and teaches these commands shall be great in the kingdom of God."

**By your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you indeed put your faith into action as you fulfill the commands of Jesus.**

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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month at 5:00 PM in the PRC! All Are Welcome!

**Thank You** for your continued support of SVDP!

### SVDP FEBRUARY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"

Thanks for all the jars of jam and jelly you donated in January. For February, we are asking for

**Cans of tuna or Boxes of Tuna Helper or Hamburger Helper.**



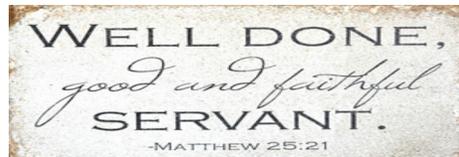
### A REFLECTION FOR FEBRUARY 12 FROM "THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN"

*The humble, simple souls, who are little enough to see the bigness of God in the littleness of a Babe, are therefore the only ones who will ever understand the reason of His visitation. He came to this poor earth of ours to carry on an exchange; to say to us, as only the Good God could say: 'you give me your humanity, and I will give you my Divinity; you give me your time, and I will give you My eternity; you give me your broken heart, and I will give you Love; you give me your nothingness, and I will give you My all.*

### PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED LOVED ONES

Alice Rollins  
Therese Messier  
Ramiro Cardona

Mother of Mary Parrish  
Mother of Joyce Welsh  
Brother-in-law of Father Antonio



### UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS — SAVE THE DATES!

- April 21—Movie Night—Father Stu (PG-13 version)
- June 23—Smokies Baseball w/fireworks

**NELLA FANTASIA CONCERT DETAILS  
FEBRUARY 20, 2023 AT 7 PM**

**"Finger Food" Reception: 6-7 pm and 8-9 pm**

We will be providing light hors d'oeuvres both before and after the concert. The reception after the concert will be your opportunity to meet Esteban, Christian and Laura since they will be completing their preparation for the concert beforehand.

**RSVP Sign-up:**

There is a sign-up sheet in Shea Hall on the music closet door. We would like to get a rough head count on how many are planning to attend so we know how much food to provide.

**Free Will Offering:**

We will be taking up a free-will offering in order to assist our musicians with their expenses.

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—2/5/2023**

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Attendance: 106

Sunday Offertory .....	\$ 4,821.00
Donation Box .....	0.00
Other Donations* .....	45.00
Total Donations for the Week .....	\$ 4,866.00

Year-to-Date Donations .....	\$ 113,406.76
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations.....	113,152.32
Year-to-Date Donation <b>Surplus</b> .....	<b>\$ 254.44</b>

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund .....	\$ 1,136.00
Parish Charity .....	5.00
Black & Indian Missions.....	195.00
Other .....	0.00
Total Non-Budget Donations .....	\$ 1,146.00

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

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

**AN INSPIRATION FOR FEBRUARY 12 FROM "THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS"**

*"It is almost a definition of a gentleman to say that he is one who never inflicts pain."* -  
St. John Henry Newman

**WEEK 33—52 WAYS TO CARE FOR CREATION** from [laudatosimovement.org](http://laudatosimovement.org)

Take and keep the Laudato Si Pledge, Part 3- Advocate to Protect our Common Home

People of faith who make efforts to "hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" [LS 49] may recognize that we have vast and diverse company on our journey. Organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, the Audubon Society, and of course the United Nations Environment Programme work tirelessly to educate and to protect the environment we have been so blessed with. We can make this our own life-long practice through our Week #33 Way to Care for Creation- adoption of Part 3 of the Laudato Si Pledge: Advocate to Protect our Common Home. "Worldwide, the ecological movement has made significant advances, thanks also to the efforts of many organizations of civil society. Thanks to their efforts, environmental questions have increasingly found a place on public agendas and encouraged more far-sighted approaches" [LS 166].

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](mailto:maryetank@hotmail.com)) or the OLOF Care for Creation Ministry, or [laudatosimovement.org](http://laudatosimovement.org).



*Esteban Salazar*

TENOR



*Christian Correa*

TENOR



*Laura Gómez*

SOPRANO

NELLA FANTASIA  
CONCERT 

*Music Pieces By:*  
*Andrea Bocelli*  
*Il Divo*  
*Leonard Cohen*  
*Ernesto de Curtis*  
*Bart Howard*

FEB.20.2023  
7:00 PM

Admission is Free.



A Love Offering will be collected.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

7717 River Rd.

Townsend, TN 37882

[www.StFrancisTownsend.org](http://www.StFrancisTownsend.org)



### SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

On Ash Wednesday, February 22, a second collection will be taken up in support of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe that suffered so much under decades of harsh Soviet communist rule. Great need remains for the Church in many of these countries as they are still unable to support their own renewal and growth. Your donation will help with the training of seminarians and lay leaders, youth ministry, pastoral and catechetical centers, schools, church construction and renovation, and evangelization through Catholic media. Thank you for your generosity in support of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.



### SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION—FEBRUARY 25 & 26

A second collection will be taken up the weekend of February 26 to help provide Catholic education and seminary tuition assistance for minority communities in our diocese. Thank you for your generosity in helping to make Catholic education possible for minority communities.

### OPERATION RICE BOWL—FEBRUARY 22—APRIL 9, 2023

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.



**Rice Bowls will be available starting Ash Wednesday, February 22.**

## BISHOP'S APPEAL for MINISTRIES

*Building up the Church in East Tennessee*

If you were unable to fill out your pledge form last weekend or this weekend, you can give online at <https://www.dioknox.org/appeal>, then click on the Bishop's Appeal for Ministries logo in the middle of the page. To mail a gift, please make checks payable to "Bishop's Appeal for Ministries" and send to the Diocese of Knoxville, Stewardship Office, 805 S. Northshore Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919.