



## FEBRUARY 19, 2023 7TH 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>2/20</b>	8:30 AM	Francis † & Winifred † Adams
<b>TUES.</b>	<b>2/21</b>	8:30 AM	Linda Ring †
<b>WED.</b>	<b>2/22</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b> <b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Masses</b>
<b>THURS.</b>	<b>2/23</b>	8:30 AM	Norma † & Edward B. † Ganley, Jr.
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>2/24</b>	8:30 AM	Fidel Jerónimo †
<b>SAT.</b>	<b>2/25</b>	4:00 PM	Zack & Jessie Bell, Hadley Jo Watson
<b>SUN.</b>	<b>2/26</b>	9:00 AM	Rita Hamilton †

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, Kim Brown, Robert Modisett, Tony Foster, Mary Sellers, Claire Cheadle, Bea Daily

**SANCTUARY CANDLE:** *In Memory of Alice Rollins, Mother of Mary Parrish*. 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:** 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.



1st Lenten Friday - February 24<sup>th</sup>

Facilitated by the  
Lector Ministry

5:00 PM - Stations of the Cross  
~5:45 PM - Meatless Lenten Dinner  
~6:15 PM - Lenten Reflection

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>2/20</b>	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
		7:00 PM	Nella Fantasia Concert
<b>Tue</b>	<b>2/21</b>		
<b>Wed</b>	<b>2/22</b>	9:00 AM	Ash Wednesday Masses
		6:00 PM	
<b>Thu</b>	<b>2/23</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>2/24</b>	5:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
<b>Sat</b>	<b>2/25</b>	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>2/26</b>	9:00 AM	Mass



**PASTOR'S  
NOTES**

**7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

The first reading of the Book of Leviticus reminds us that we are to be holy as God is holy. The people of God will be recognized and distinguished because of their behavior. This behavior is best observed by responding to the great commandment of love. The commandment to love one's neighbor in Israel meant to love a fellow Israelite. Jesus in his expanded love extended neighbor to include one's enemies.

Last week we heard in the Gospel more specifically what Jesus meant when he said he came to perfect the law. In reference to the fifth commandment, "You shall not kill," he taught us we should not even be harboring hateful and murderous thoughts and desires within ourselves. In a similar way he spoke about the sixth commandment, "you shall not commit adultery."

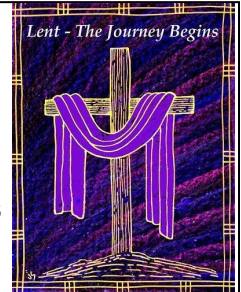
Today's gospel continues this pattern. The law of talion, which Jesus refers to today, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, was meant to impose some sense of justice and fairness. A person could exact revenge only to the extent to the damage imposed. Jesus carries the law much further, in telling us not to try to take revenge at all. He insists that love has to go beyond what is demanded, it has to go beyond just loving people we are supposed to love or enjoy loving. It's not easy to do but we have his example to show us how it can be done.

Jesus sums up this section by saying you must be perfect as your heavenly Father if perfect. It is impossible for any of us, as wonderful as we may be. What Jesus is asking of us is that we should all be trying to get closer to God, by our relationship with God and by our love for one another. That is the same thing that Moses is saying in the first reading "be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy" and this is a process. In other words, we are perfect when we keep growing, we keep maturing, we keep moving forward in God's direction. When we stop moving forward spiritually, when we decide to put God off to some time when we're "not so busy," when we say for example, there's nothing special I need to do in Lent, there's no way I need to change for the better, or it is not worth the effort, then we become stagnant spiritually. That is bad. For the development of our spiritual life is our most important purpose in life. Our material possessions we will leave behind some day. Our bodies will decompose. The only thing we will be able to hold on to when this life is over is the good works we have done and the relationship with God we have formed.

We want to be like God in possessing some of God's qualities: like joy, love, peace, eternal life. We have to work to be like God in other ways, especially in our everyday lives and in everyday dealings with one another. And the only way we can get started in this direction is through prayer. We need to reflect on God's word, we have to provide for ourselves moments of quiet where we can possibly hear God's word in our hearts.

There are many brothers and sisters who do not realize the immense love of God for them, and of the power of that love to do them good, to bring them happiness. If you are looking for something special to do during this Lent, if your life is in such perfect order in every way and you can't think of anything you can do to make it better, I would suggest taking some extra time to pray.

## CATECHISM CORNER



Dear Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi,

Please pray for our bishops and the countless men and women who are serving this movement of the Eucharistic Revival! I especially ask you to pray for our parishioners Jackie Wagner and Karen Messenger who have volunteered to guide us!

This coming Wednesday we will be celebrating Ash Wednesday; which is the beginning of Lent. I've written before about the three disciplines of Lent: fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. During Lent, I will try to elaborate more on each one and how we can incorporate these into our everyday lives.

The word "Lent" comes from the same root word as the word lengthen. Lent is an old Anglo-Saxon word for springtime, when daytime lengthens rapidly. Lent is the Church's springtime of our "Life in the Spirit". This very holy time of the Church year and has been practiced since the earliest times of the Church. For instance, St. Irenaeus (d. 203) wrote to Pope St. Victor I, commenting on the celebration of Easter and the differences between practices in the East and the West (another topic for the Corner!). This time is when, during the 40 days before Easter, the catechumens repented, studied, and sacrificed intensely. This was the only time during the year that the Sacrament of Baptism took place! When infant Baptism became common, Lent became a time of repentance and renewal for all Christians.

The days of Lent are often compared to a journey, a journey which gives us an opportunity to imitate Jesus as He fasted forty days in the desert preparing for His service to His people. So, this means at the end of Lent we expect find ourselves somewhere different than where we started. Lent is a time for strengthening our Catholic Faith, a time to reflect on who we are and where we are going. It is a time of quiet and prayer, a time of penance and meditations, a time to become aware of our strengths and weaknesses. On Ash Wednesday, we are marked with the sign of the cross on our foreheads. These come from the palms blessed for Passion Sunday last year. Ashes.....death and life...In autumn ashes declare death. The harvest is complete and what remains is burnt. In the spring ashes announce life. When the earth awakens, ashes are spread to nourish new growth. These ashes on our forehead signify mortality, mourning and penance. We have chosen to join in the drama of death and life, not to impress others, but because we intend to walk with Jesus.....the Lamb of God.

Lent highlights and illumines that which should be the agenda of every day of our lives: a complete turning of our lives and our hearts to God, a true sense of sorrow for sin, and participation in our baptismal life which is ultimately, participation in the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ.

I look forward to journeying with you during the next 40 days. May God bless you abundantly on your journey of Lent.

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



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us by saying: "You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect."

**This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist local families by providing food and assistance with utility and rent bills, etc. Thank You!**

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 all of those who have donated to this program. It has been a blessing to have our parishioners help re-stock our pantry. For February, we are asking for

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



Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023

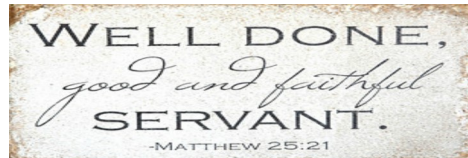
Mass & Ashes:

9:00 AM and 6:00 PM



### PLEASE PRAY FOR MARION E. GANLEY

Marion Ganley passed away on February 14, 2023. Funeral Arrangements will be announced at a later date.



### A REFLECTION FOR FEBRUARY 19 FROM "THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN"

*God has given different gifts for different people. There is no basis for feeling inferior to another who has a different gift. Once it is realized that we shall be judged by the gift we have received, rather than the gift we have not, one is completely delivered from a false sense of inferiority.*

### AN INSPIRATION FOR FEBRUARY 19 FROM "THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS"

*A saint was once asked, while playing happily with his companions, what he would do if an angel told him that in a quarter of an hour he would die and have to appear before the judgment seat of God. The saint promptly replied that he would continue playing because he was certain these games were pleasing to God." - St. John Bosco*

**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—2/12/2023**

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Attendance: 112

Sunday Offertory .....	\$ 2,486.75
Donation Box .....	20.00
Other Donations* .....	0.00
Total Donations for the Week .....	\$ 2,506.75

Year-to-Date Donations .....	\$ 115,913.51
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations.....	116,688.33
Year-to-Date Donation ( <b>Deficit</b> ) .....	<b>(\$ 774.82)</b>

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund .....	\$ 50.00
Parish Charity .....	190.00
Other .....	0.00
Total Non-Budget Donations .....	\$ 240.00

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

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

**URGENT NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC**

The St. Mary's Legacy Clinic, which is a mobile medical clinic, has an urgent need for volunteers with CDL licenses and for nurses and medical professionals. More information is on the bulletin board or on their website: <https://smlcares.com>.

**WEEK 34—52 WAYS TO CARE FOR CREATION** from [laudatosimovement.org](http://laudatosimovement.org)

**Reduce Energy Usage for Lent**

In his 2011 book, *The Rough Guide to Climate Change*, the meteorologist Robert Henson states that "a warming planet is liable to produce a cascade of repercussions for millions of people who have never started up a car or taken a cross country flight". These brothers and sisters of ours across the globe are indeed dealing with epic droughts and epic flooding caused by climate change. This is a huge issue of social justice for us believers who think nothing of our daily energy consumption, not realizing how out-sized we live and the connection to those repercussions. This Lent, let us consider reducing energy consumption by "avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights" [LS 211]. All important practices!

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)



The St. Francis Council of Catholic Women will be hosting Lectio Divina again this Lent. Lectio Divina, which is Latin for “divine reading” is a four-step method for praying with the scriptures: Reading, Meditation, Contemplation and Prayer.

Join us on **Tuesday mornings** during Lent from **9:30 to 10:30 am** in Shea Hall. Our Lenten sessions will begin on **February 28th**. Come and share in this experience and discover how Lectio Divina can enhance your Lenten journey.

### SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE—FEBRUARY 22



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 TO 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.**