



FEBRUARY 26, 2023 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

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.	2/27	8:30 AM	Pam Moretti †
TUES.	2/28	8:30 AM	Clyde Jackson †
WED.	3/1		NO MORNING MASS
THURS.	3/2	8:30 AM	Raymond Sexton †
FRIDAY	3/3	8:30 AM	Theresa Messier †
SAT.	3/4	4:00 PM	Nadine Schott †
SUN.	3/5	9:00 AM	Eric & Gail Simons

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

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.



SANCTUARY FLOWERS: No Flowers during Lent. 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.



2nd Lenten Friday - March 3rd

Facilitated by the
St. Vincent de Paul Society

5:00 PM Stations of the Cross
~5:45 PM Meatless Lenten Dinner
~6:15 PM Lenten Reflection: *"What does Eucharistic Adoration involve? Eucharistic Adoration: how to pray during your hour."*

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	2/27	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	2/28	9:30 AM	Lectio Divina
Wed	3/1	5:00 PM	SVDP
Thu	3/2		
Fri	3/3	9:00 AM 5:00 PM	Adoration Stations of the Cross
Sat	3/4	9:00 AM 4:00 PM	Adoration Vigil Mass
Sun	3/5	9:00 AM	Mass



PASTOR'S NOTES

1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

Matthew 4:1

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.



Throughout our lives, we wrestle with our identities. As children, we discover our need for friendship and learning and laughter. In our teen years and early adulthood, we want as much to stand out as to fit in, and so we begin to identify our hungers and thirsts and discover ways to quench them, some of which are healthy and some of which are not. Even into mature adulthood, we sometimes find ourselves wondering who we are at the deepest levels. We live in a culture that sells the value of status at a very cheap price. Unfortunately, many of us spend our time and energy purchasing these bargain-basement messages.

The story of Jesus and the devil in the desert reminds us that only God's promises of security are worth the price. With each temptation the devil repeated, "If you are the Son of God" (emphasis added), hoping to plant doubts in the mind and heart of Jesus. But Jesus knew who he was; there were no "ifs" in his mind and heart.

We might picture Jesus in the desert repeating the words of our psalm today, praying to God to renew within him a steadfast spirit, praying that when put to the test he would remember that he was the beloved of God and would stand firm on the promises of God.

On this first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel of Matthew draws us to into the desert with Jesus, maybe not so much to experience temptation – we have that around us all the time – but perhaps to discover the steadfastness or the spirit that the psalmist speaks of. Perhaps if we feast on God's Word, we will nourish the life of God in us. Perhaps if we allow God to accompany us even into the depths of our life's experiences, we will know our true strength. And, perhaps, if we give ourselves over to truly worship God, we will experience the grace we need to strip away whatever false securities cloud our vision. In the desert with Jesus, the true Son of God who was also truly human, we might just rediscover our own identity as daughters and sons of God.

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS PILGRIMAGE



The Diocese of Knoxville will soon be announcing details about the 2024 pilgrimage to the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. We have secured tickets for admission, transportation, and hotel accommodations, all of which will be made available to those in our diocese as soon as we receive confirmation of details from the USCCB.

We have been asked to encourage our congregation to wait for this opportunity to sign up for the pilgrimage with us, rather than buying tickets directly from the National Eucharistic Revival organization. The Diocese is planning something very special and would very much like their parishes to be a part of that together.

CATECHISM CORNER

Welcome to the First Sunday of Lent! Please try to join us for First Friday and First Saturday Eucharistic Adoration this coming end of the week. "We must accustom ourselves to see Jesus in the Host, just as He really is, a living Person with a Heart filled with love and tenderness. A real person, Who loves us and wishes to have us come to Him as to One Whom we love above all others. With such reflections, love will be quickly enkindled in our hearts." (from *My Eucharistic Day* by St. Peter Julian Eymard, page 24). Eucharistic Adoration, a most beautiful prayer! Speaking of prayer, I would like to "elaborate" a little about the three disciplines of our Catholic Faith during Lent. When we received the ashes on Ash Wednesday, this "small smudge" was an enormous reminder of the substantial responsibility we have as followers of Jesus and with that being said, we need help – that is why it is SO important to practice the discipline of prayer during Lent and.....well..... every day! The relationship you will build with our God will carry you and help you – I guarantee it!

I "talked" about prayer at the beginning of February – I guess I was getting you ready for Lent! But it is **always** good to discuss more about this subject (prayer) ANY time of the Church year! I do want to add a little bit more about this discipline/practice of increased prayer. Just like with any habit, prayer can come very easily with making it a "daily habit". Here are some more suggestions if you struggle to make time for prayer, try one of these:

- Delete the two most used apps on your phone; Set strict time limits for social media use (or remove it all together);
- Give up hitting the snooze button (of course if you're retired, please disregard this one ☺); Give up reading or watching the news;
- Get up 15 minutes early every day to pray; Drive to work in silence (no radio, music, podcasts, etc...) If you do want to increase your prayer life and grow in holiness here are some more suggestions for you, pick your favorite:
- Give up sleeping in to attend daily Mass 2-3 times per week (this doesn't include the Sunday obligation);
- Perform an examination of conscience every evening;
- Give up reading non-spiritual books/articles and pray the rosary every day instead;
- Give up snacking and instead pray the Divine Praises every time you are tempted to snack;
- Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy every day;
- Read the daily Mass readings and sit in silence for 10 minutes afterwards;
- Pray "Come Holy Spirit" every time you walk through a door.

A really good book that helped me with my prayer life is: *I Heard God Laugh!* By Matthew Kelly. An amazing book with very easy and practical guidelines to help you with your prayer life. On page 41 in this book, there is an easy "to follow" prayer process. When I saw the title of this book, it made me "laugh" and I read it in one sitting! If you don't have this book, please look into getting one. I promise you **and** your prayer life will benefit from reading it!

Have a most blessed week St. Francis! And if you have any questions, please email me at: jdewtn2018@att.net.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Lent is a call to “give alms for the poor.” Wherever you live in the parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please have them call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (865-312-0141) so that together we can help the suffering and poor.

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!

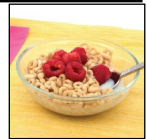
Thank You for your continued support of SVDP!



SVDP MARCH “PRODUCT OF THE MONTH”

Our Products of the Month for March are:

Paper Towels and Cold Cereal.



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.

A REFLECTION FOR FEBRUARY 26 FROM “THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN”

Imagine a large circle and in the center of it, rays of light that spread out to the circumference. The light in the center is God; each of us is a ray. The closer the rays are to the center, the closer the rays are to one another. The closer we live to God, the closer we are bound to our neighbor; the farther we are from God, the farther we are from one another. The more each ray departs from its center, the weaker it becomes; and the closer it gets to the center, the stronger it becomes.



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

Please stop by the St. Clare Gift Shop after mass to see all of the new items for sale. As we observe Lent and prepare for Easter, there are many items available for your journey through Lent to the celebration of Easter. If you would like to visit the shop during the week, it can be opened any weekday after morning mass or by appointment by calling the office.





**FIRST FRIDAY &
FIRST SATURDAY
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Friday, March 3

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

Saturday, March 4

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

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—2/19/2023

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Attendance: 138

Sunday Offertory	\$ 1,697.00
Donation Box	10.00
Other Donations*	0.00
Total Donations for the Week	<u>\$ 2,506.75</u>

Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 117,675.51
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations.....	<u>120,224.34</u>
Year-to-Date Donation (Deficit)	(\$ 1,707.00)

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$ 120.00
Parish Charity	325.00
Other	0.00
Total Non-Budget Donations	<u>\$ 445.00</u>

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

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

AN INSPIRATION FOR FEBRUARY 26 FROM “THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS”

“We must show love for those who do evil to us and pray for them. Nothing is dearer or more pleasing to God than this.” - St. Bridget of Sweden

WEEK 35—52 WAYS TO CARE FOR CREATION from laudatosimovement.org

Re-consider transportation

Our world loves its cars and trucks; we love to ‘rev it up’ - it’s our culture! However... nearly 30% of all greenhouse gas emissions originate from our vehicles, and these gasses are warming our world, making summer weather last longer, storms more intense, and stressing trees and wildlife (nasa.gov). “The bishops of Bolivia have stated, “the countries which have benefited from a high degree of industrialization, at the cost of enormous emissions of greenhouse gases, have a greater responsibility for providing a solution to the problems they have caused” [LS 170]. According to the DOT, the average American drives about 35 miles per day and reducing this number as a culture can have a huge positive impact. Carpooling, reducing trips and mileage, walking and biking, refusing to use drive-throughs, using public transportation, and switching our vehicles to electric are all healthier practices for 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.

NELLA FANTASIA CONCERT



Our concert this past Monday was a great success with almost 70 parishioners and friends in attendance. Esteban, Laura and Christian sang an enjoyable variety of music—something for everyone.

Receptions were held both before and after the concert, with finger foods provided by parishioners and the church. It was a great chance to mingle and to meet our musicians after the concert.



**CHRISTIAN &
ESTEBAN**

LAURA



**FATHER ANTONIO ENJOYING “NEW
YORK, NEW YORK” (HAT COURTESY OF
TOM FAY)**

If you remember, Esteban was asked to sing this at our Christmas Party. He, Laura and Christian learned this song especially for this concert.



**FATHER ANTONIO THANKS THE MUSI-
CIANS FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE AND
THE AUDIENCE FOR SUPPORTING THIS
EVENT.**



2ND ANNUAL
CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE
ST. DOMINIC'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - KINGSFORD, TN

SATURDAY, MARCH 11
7:30AM - 3:30PM



**MISSION:
BUILDING TRUE
FRIENDSHIP**



**BISHOP
RICHARD F. STITKA**
Diocese of Knoxville



BEN O'NEILL
Napa Institute



JONATHAN CARDINAL
Fellowship of Catholic
University Students
(FOCUS)



DANNY SNYDER
Fraternus

The Catholic Men's Conference is a local one day event that will include breakfast and lunch, fellowship, dynamic speakers, music, prayer, and opportunities for Sacramental Confession and Eucharist.

SCAN THE CODE TO
REGISTER FOR THE EVENT
OR VISIT [facebook.com/
CatholicMensConferenceKET](https://facebook.com/CatholicMensConferenceKET)



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>.



What to Give Up

A Lenten Reflection

**Give up complaining —
focus on gratitude.**

**Give up pessimism —
become an optimist.**

**Give up harsh judgments —
think kindly thoughts.**

**Give up worry —
trust Divine Providence.**

**Give up discouragement —
be full of hope.**

**Give up bitterness —
turn to forgiveness.**

**Give up hatred —
return good for evil.**

**Give up negativism —
be positive.**

**Give up anger —
be more patient.**

**Give up pettiness —
become mature.**

**Give up gloom —
enjoy the beauty that is all around you.**

**Give up jealousy —
pray for trust.**

**Give up gossiping —
control your tongue.**

**Give up sin —
turn to virtue.**

**Give up giving up —
hang in there!**