



MARCH 12, 2023 3RD 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: Saturday – Vigil Mass - 4:00PM
Sunday – 9:00AM

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

CONFESSION: Saturday before Mass:
3:00 - 3:40 (Church confessional)
Sunday Before Mass:
8:15 - 8:40 (Church confessional)
Confessions may also be scheduled
by calling the parish office for an
appointment.

HOLY DAYS: Check bulletin or website

The Rosary is prayed 35 minutes before each Weekend Mass

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: 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 at the office.)

MON. 3/13 8:30 AM Joyce Welsh
TUES. 3/14 8:30 AM Paul Heinrich†
WED. 3/15 **NO MORNING MASS**
THURS. 3/16 8:30 AM JoAnn Richards†
FRIDAY 3/17 8:30 AM
SAT. 3/18 4:00 PM Zachary Bell, Jr.,
 Natalie & Joseph Watson
SUN. 3/19 9:00 AM Charlie Gunter†

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, Daniel Bowman

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.



4th Lenten Friday - March 17th

Facilitated by the
Altar Servers & Sacristans

5:00 PM Stations of the Cross
 ~5:45 PM Meatless Lenten Dinner
 ~6:15 PM Lenten Reflection: Video
 Presentation on How to Receive Communion

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	3/13	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	3/14	9:15 AM	Lectio Divina
Wed	3/15	5:00 PM	SVDP
Thu	3/16		
Fri	3/17	5:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
Sat	3/18	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	3/19	9:00 AM	Mass



3RD SUNDAY IN LENT

Today's liturgy contains strong images of water. In the first reading today, Moses was instructed to strike the rock and water sprang forth. Water was a powerful symbol of God's activity. Water was a sign of life. At creation God hovered over the waters and breathed life into them. Water was a sign of destruction, purification, and God's awesome power. God sent down the rain for forty days and forty nights and submerged

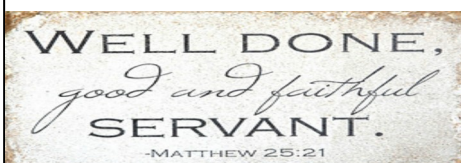
the earth because of the sin of human beings. Water was a sign of salvation. When the Israelites thirsted in the desert, water flowed through the power of God. Water is a symbol of liberation and passage from death to life. Through the water sign there is allusion to the sacraments: water as salvation; water as a sign of baptism. Lent is both penitential and baptismal in nature. The first reading touches on both themes. This first reading reminds us of our total dependence on God who saves, Christ who liberates, and the Spirit who leads us to the life-giving water.

The reading prepares us for the gospel when we hear Jesus offering "living water" to a woman he meets in Samaria as he is traveling south toward Jerusalem. She misunderstands the term "living water" until Jesus reveals to her that it is something that Jesus can give that will sustain her throughout this life's journey and into eternal life. He offers this living water to us today as we meet him in faith and prayer.

It does take a lot of faith to believe in all the miracles mentioned in the Bible. In the reading from Exodus, God miraculously provides water from a rock for his people during their desert journey. Today John's gospel tells us about Jesus who desires to offer all who would believe in him living water, a miracle infinitely more wondrous than providing drinking water. Jesus very cleverly introduces the idea by asking for a drink. The Samaritan woman was shocked – not only because Jews and Samaritan hated one another, but also because in that culture men never spoke with women in public, least of all one who was stranger. By offering living water, Jesus was deliberately vague, offering something she would see as a great convenience, without having any idea how precious a gift it is he offers. Jesus keeps directing her to faith in himself. When he brings something personal about her, her intimate life with a man to whom she is not married, she becomes fascinated enough to spread the word to her neighbors about this unique person she had met.

Living water is not the only symbol Jesus uses to reveal who he is and the eternal life he came to bring us; he refers to himself as the bread of life, the light of the world, the good shepherd, the lamb of God, the vine of which we are the branches, the resurrection and the life, just to use some of the other images Jesus uses. The important message we must get from today's gospel is that the more we engage with Jesus in reflection and prayer, even in spite of distractions, the more he seeks to lead us into a deeper relationship with himself and with the Father.

FUNERAL SERVICE FOR MARION GANLEY



The Funeral Service for Marion Ganley will be held at 11:00 am on Monday, March 13th here at St. Francis of Assisi. Committal of her ashes will be at Valley View Baptist Church immediately following the Funeral Service. All are invited.

CATECHISM CORNER



A most Holy and Blessed Third Sunday of Lent! To continue, let's "talk" about the third discipline of Lent: almsgiving. When you hear the word almsgiving, you probably think of the giving of money, right? Not only money, it can also involve the giving of clothing, food, shelter, etc. Almsgiving is not an act of selfless giving but an act of self-service and should be given from charity or generosity. In stories about Christ, what consistently stands out is his commitment to helping people living in poverty. Please read the Gospel of Matthew 25:35-46. Here Jesus wants our lives to overflow with mercy, love, and compassion — the marks of God's kingdom. In Matthew 25, Jesus calls us to feed those who are hungry. We've made great progress in overcoming hunger, but there are many here and around the world that still don't get enough nutritious food to live healthy lives. Now is the time for us to come together as followers of Jesus, sustaining families for today and equipping them to put food on their own tables for tomorrow. Speaking of time, our time is one of our greatest gifts. Money, often considered a great gift, actually pales in comparison. Most everyone can always make more money. But no one can make more time. Still, money is a gift and one that is meant to be shared, particularly during Lent, when the Church encourages us to increase our generosity in almsgiving. There are many ways to give alms during Lent. The key is to find a cause that helps your neighbor in need through the corporal works of mercy. Seek out a service project with a local charity and give of your time. I know I speak frequently of our St. Vincent DePaul Society, but please consider helping with your time or financially!

Another opportunity for practicing the discipline of almsgiving is Operation Rice Bowl. Celebrating over 40 years, CRS Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services Lenten program for families and faith communities in the United States who want to put their faith into action. Through CRS Rice Bowl, participants are invited to hear stories about their brothers and sisters in need around the world, and devote their Lenten prayers, fasting and alms to change the lives of those who suffer in poverty. FYI – of all of the donations that are given, 93 percent goes directly to their efforts.

Almsgiving is just one of three pillars (disciplines) of Lenten service, the others being prayer and fasting. The three go hand in hand and should be a regular part of your Catholic life and not just a once-a-year Lenten sacrifice.

Lent is about letting go of the things that keep us from God so that we can cling more resolutely to him. We have to shed our plans and our fears, and give way to God's designs. In a word, we need to surrender. —Father Patrick Mary Briscoe

There are 960 hours in Lent. How have you been spending them?

Keep those questions coming at jdewtn2018@att.net!

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Next week our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and **reveal Christ's love** to those most in need. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel, Jesus says: "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work."

Through your almsgiving you are doing the will of the Father and finishing the work of Jesus. Know that your nickel, dime, quarter or dollar is multiplied by the coins and dollars placed by others in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box.

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"

As we keep saying, ***Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!!***

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.

We had a very good turn out this past Tuesday and welcome anyone interested to join us on **Tuesday mornings** during Lent from **9:15-10:15 am** in Shea Hall. Come and share in this experience and discover how Lectio Divina can enhance your Lenten journey. You do not have to come every Tuesday. Each week we choose a different Gospel to pray about and to discuss.

PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME: 9:15-10:15 AM

A REFLECTION FOR MARCH 12 FROM "THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN"

Once a man ceases to be of service to his neighbor, he begins to be a burden to him.



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

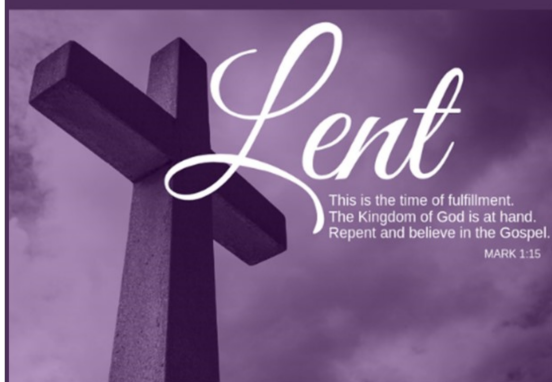
Please stop by the St. Clare Gift Shop after mass to see all of the new items for sale. As we observe Lent and prepare for Easter, there are many items available for your journey through Lent to the celebration of Easter. If you would like to visit the shop during the week, it can be opened any weekday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



PARISH PENANCE SERVICE

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

7:00 p.m.



WEST MEETING—MARCH 30, NOON

MOVIE NIGHT—APRIL 21; 5 PM

SMOKIES BASEBALL—JUNE 23

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—3/5/2023

2nd Sunday in Lent—Attendance: 144

Sunday Offertory	\$ 5045.21
Holy Days (Triduum).....	5.00
Donation Box.....	70.00
Total Donations for the Week.....	\$ 5,120.21

Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 125,869.72
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations.....	127,296.36
Year-to-Date Donation (Deficit)	(\$ 1,426.64)

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,196.00
Parish Charity	5.00
CRS Rice Bowl	65.00
Good Friday/Holy Land.....	5.00
Total Non-Budget Donations	\$ 1,271.00

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

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

AN INSPIRATION FOR MARCH 12 FROM “THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS”

Femininity: *“Each woman who lives in the light of eternity can fulfill her vocation, no matter if it is in marriage, in a religious order, or in a worldly profession.” - St. Edith Stein*

WEEK 37—52 WAYS TO CARE FOR CREATION from laudatosimovement.org

Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

According to Dr. Vincent Miller, Professor of Theology at the University of Dayton, Ohio, the word “lifestyle” appears in Pope Francis’ Laudato Si encyclical 17 times. He has described how every physical item we possess has a connection to land, labor, and life itself. We would do well to develop an attitude of “serene awareness” when purchasing, and question a manufacturer’s production methods and waste policies. “Everything is connected” [LS 91] and globally, the environment and poor people are increasingly paying the price for our commodities. Free shipping is not really free! One of the seven major goals of the Laudato Si Movement is the Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles- an invitation to exhibit sobriety when consuming resources and using energy. Old dogs can learn new tricks, and Lent is a perfect time to re-evaluate and re-invent our own lifestyles!

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.