



## MARCH 19, 2023 4TH 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](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 at the office.)

**MON. 3/20** 8:30 AM Marion Ganley †  
**TUES. 3/21** 8:30 AM Marion Ganley †  
**WED. 3/22** **NO MORNING MASS**  
**THURS. 3/23** 8:30 AM  
**FRIDAY 3/24** 8:30 AM Oliva Lopez de Restrepo †  
**SAT. 3/25** 4:00 PM Richard Struthers †  
**SUN. 3/26** 9:00 AM Claire Cheadle

To schedule a Mass intention, please contact the Parish Office via phone or email or in person during office hours. 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:** *In Memory of Joseph Sendra given by Roger & Charlene Burrell.* 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.



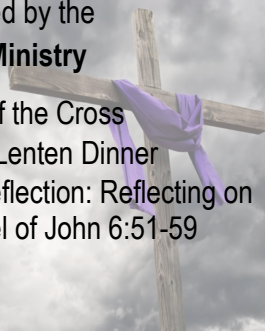
**SANCTUARY FLOWERS:** *No Flowers during Lent.* If you would like to donate to the sanctuary flowers fund in memory of or in honor of someone, please contact the Parish Office via phone or email. The cost is \$40.00 for two weeks.



5th Lenten Friday - March 24th

Facilitated by the  
**Music Ministry**

5:00 PM Stations of the Cross  
 ~5:45 PM Meatless Lenten Dinner  
 ~6:15 PM Lenten Reflection: Reflecting on the Gospel of John 6:51-59



**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>3/20</b>	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
<b>Tue</b>	<b>3/21</b>	9:15 AM 7:00 PM	Lectio Divina Parish Penance Service
<b>Wed</b>	<b>3/22</b>		
<b>Thu</b>	<b>3/23</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>3/24</b>	5:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
<b>Sat</b>	<b>3/25</b>	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>3/26</b>	9:00 AM	Mass



#### 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

Last week we encountered Jesus and the Samaritan woman. As baptized people, we are reminded of our obligation to evangelize and share the first proclamation: God loves us. We continue to hear that Jesus meets people where they are in life, and this time with a man who was born blind. This story is not so much about the blind man being healed, but about seeing as God sees. And, to be honest, the way that God sees is not usually the way that humanity wants or is capable of seeing: it can be challenging. This gospel invites us to consider unbelief to faith, from darkness to life.

Pope Francis reminds us that our task as Christians is to “heal the wounds,” and that the church should be seen as a “field hospital.” We are fortunate enough to see differently because of our faith. Without it, we are not able to interpret our life with God. When good things happen, our faith allows us to see them as blessings. When challenges come, our faith allows us to humbly relearn what it means to be a person of faith and what trusting in God means. Two years ago, we faced one of the biggest challenges in our time, not only as a nation but worldwide – the corona virus. Nowadays, we are at the brim of the most dangerous threats in human history – the threat of nuclear war. We are offered an invitation to show a strength which comes from our faith. We are given opportunities to respond in love and in mercy. Our faith gives us the strength we need to face struggles and challenges.

If we are sincere about asking God to open our eyes, then we must also be willing to change the way we live our lives so that it reflects the way God sees. In this story, nobody was able to see the way that God sees: the apostles, the man born blind, his parents, and the Pharisees. This brings us to a place where we are invited to search our hearts. Are there any places of darkness in your life that needs God’s light to shine into?

May we use this season of intensified prayer and reflection wisely, so that we do not see as the Pharisees do, but as God sees with Christ shining his light upon us, illuminating our hearts towards a genuine faith.

#### PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

Suzie Fay is now the leader of our “Pastoral Care Ministry”. If you or a family member become sick, hospitalized or home bound and need assistance, the church would like to help you. You may set up a visit to bring communion, or request help as needed by contacting Suzie or the church office. If you are interested in assisting with this ministry, please contact Suzie at 423-829-5466.



Also, the Parish has a fund available for her to use for purchasing small gifts (flowers, candy, etc.) to bring to people she visits, particularly during the holiday seasons. If you wish to donate to this fund, please drop your donation into the offertory basket in an envelope marked “Pastoral Care”.

## CATECHISM CORNER

Welcome to the Fourth Sunday of Lent St. Francis! I did say that I would “talk” about the Corporal Works of Mercy, but before I list them and “talk” a little about each one, please reflect on this scripture from Luke 6:36 “Be merciful, as your Heavenly Father is merciful.” The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They “are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily (corporal) needs”. They respond to the basic needs of people as we journey together through this life.

The Corporal Works of Mercy deal with the physical cares and concerns of our neighbors. They are:

1. Feed the hungry: There are many people in this world who go without food. When so much of our food goes to waste, consider how good stewardship practices of your own food habits can benefit others who do not have those same resources. Research, identify and contribute financially to organizations that serve the hungry. The next time you make a recipe that can be easily frozen, make a double batch and donate one to your local food pantry or soup kitchen. Donate to St. Francis’ SVDP!
2. Give drink to the thirsty: Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ do not have access to clean water and suffer from the lack of this basic necessity. We take it for granted that we have access to clean water. Donate to help build wells for water for those in need. Make an effort not to waste water. Remembering to turn off the water faucet when you are brushing your teeth or washing dishes can help, especially in regions suffering from drought.
3. Clothe the naked: Donate money to organizations that have the ability to provide support and services for those in need of clothing. Do research and find organizations that put people in need first, rather than profit.
4. Visit the imprisoned: People in prison are still people, made in the image and likeness of God. No matter what someone has done, they deserve the opportunity to hear the Word of God and find the Truth of the message of Christ. Volunteer to help out or donate to charities that give Christmas presents to children whose parents are in prison. See if our Diocese has a prison ministry and if so, get involved.
5. Give shelter to the homeless: There are many circumstances that could lead to someone becoming a person without a home. Donate time or money to organizations that build homes for those who need shelter. Many homeless shelters need warm blankets for their beds. If you can knit or sew that would be an extra loving gift.
6. Visit the sick: Those who are sick are often forgotten or avoided. In spite of their illness, these individuals still have much to offer to those who take the time to visit and comfort them. Take time on a Saturday to stop and visit with an elderly neighbor. Next time you make a meal that can be easily frozen, make a double batch and give it to a family in your parish who has a sick loved one.
7. Bury the dead: Funerals give us the opportunity to grieve and show others support during difficult times. Through our prayers and actions during these times we show our respect for life, which is always a gift from God, and comfort to those who mourn. Send a card to someone who has recently lost a loved one.

Make your own card and use some of these prayers. Visit the cemetery and pray for those you have lost. By practicing the corporal works of mercy, we receive grace from God to grow in virtue and we are then more able to meet the intangible needs of others through the spiritual works of mercy. (I’ll “talk about them next week.) To be merciful like the Father requires a program of life which leads us to listen to His voice, rediscovering the value of silence to meditate on it, in order to adopt His mercy as our lifestyle. Whenever I question how can I do this? I look to the saints for guidance and inspiration. For us, “Life is a pilgrimage in itself. Mercy is a goal to reach and requires dedication and sacrifice.” Have a most blessed week!



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives sight to the blind man. Through grace we are also transformed from not seeing to seeing and then Jesus sends us to help others see and to believe.

**Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brings joy, peace, forgiveness, mercy and kindness to the hurting hearts of the 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 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 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 19 FROM "THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN"

*Joy never comes to those who seek it. In the Self-forgetting hour when we are touched by another's need and sacrifice for it, we suddenly find our soul aflame with glorious joy.*



### ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

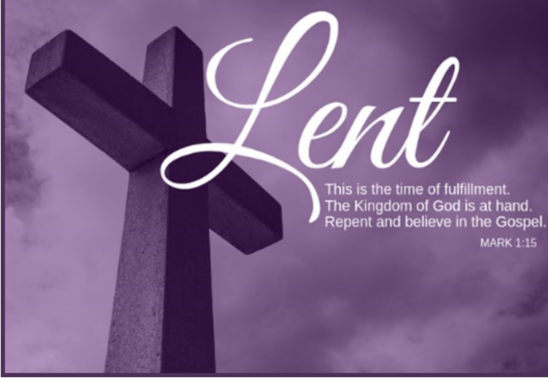
Please stop by the St. Clare Gift Shop after mass to see all of the new items for sale. As we observe Lent and prepare for Easter, there are many items available for your journey through Lent to the celebration of Easter. If you would like to visit the shop during the week, it can be opened any weekday 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—3/12/2023

3rd Sunday in Lent—Attendance: 146

Sunday Offertory .....	\$ 2,380.00
Donation Box.....	0.00
Other Donations .....	110.00
Total Donations for the Week .....	\$ 2,490.00

Year-to-Date Donations .....	\$ 128,359.72
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations.....	130,832.37
Year-to-Date Donation ( <b>Deficit</b> ) .....	<b>(\$ 2,472.65)</b>

### Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund .....	\$ 25.00
Parish Charity .....	165.00
CRS Rice Bowl .....	263.50
Total Non-Budget Donations .....	\$ 453.50

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

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

## WEEK 38—52 WAYS TO CARE FOR CREATION from [laudatosimovement.org](http://laudatosimovement.org)

### Response to the Cry of the Poor

Here in our Fourth Week of Lent, it is good to reflect that “The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. At the global level, it is a complex system linked to many of the essential conditions for human life”. And “a number of scientific studies indicate that most global warming in recent decades is due to the great concentration of greenhouse gases released mainly as a result of human activity” [LS 23]. Citizens of the US are responsible for 14.8 tons of CO2 emissions per person annually (2021, [ourworldindata.org](http://ourworldindata.org)) whereas the lifestyle of people in global south countries contribute 5 tons or less of emissions per person! Sadly, these people are experiencing tremendously erratic weather- droughts, floods, and intense storms- that disproportionately impact their housing, food supply, and health. One of the seven Laudato Si Goals reads “Respond to the Cry of the Poor”, and we can start by reining in our ultra-consumerism lifestyle.

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

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

**Order:** “If your books are in order, your life will be too.” - St. Raymund of Penyafort