



**MARCH 26, 2023**  
**5TH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**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:** 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**

<b>PRIEST:</b>	Rev. Antonio Giraldo
<b>OFFICE MANAGER:</b>	Kathy Meyerkord
<b>BOOKKEEPER:</b>	Kathleen Halligan
<b>LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTOR:</b>	JoAnne Romer-Aylward
<b>DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:</b>	Julie Dew
<b>RCIA:</b>	Bruce Boudin
<b>WELCOMING, EVENTS AND SOCIALS (WEST):</b>	All
<b>GARDENS &amp; GROUNDS:</b>	Ilene Rainwater
<b>FACILITIES:</b>	David Girard
<b>SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE:</b>	JoAnne Romer-Aylward
<b>PASTORAL CARE (SICK &amp; HOMEBOUND):</b>	Suzie Fay
<b>ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP:</b>	Camilla Sorrell
<b>COLUMBARIUM:</b>	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. 3/27** 8:30 AM Marion Ganley †  
**TUES. 3/28** 8:30 AM Charlene McAtee †  
**WED. 3/29** **NO MORNING MASS**  
**THURS. 3/30** 8:30 AM Marion Ganley †  
**FRIDAY 3/31** 8:30 AM Nadine Schott †  
**SAT. 4/1** 4:00 PM Nancy Cindrich †  
**SUN. 4/2** 9:00 AM Barbara Dee Rizzo †

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 Montera, Ann Rizzo, Elizabeth Quinn, Kim Brown, Robert Modiset, 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.



6th Lenten Friday - March 31st

Facilitated by the  
**Extraordinary Ministers of  
 Holy Communion**

5:00 PM Stations of the Cross  
 ~5:45 PM Meatless Lenten Dinner  
 ~6:15 PM Lenten Reflection: Eucharistic  
 Challenge Quiz and Tips on  
 growing your devotion of the  
 Holy Eucharist

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>3/27</b>	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
<b>Tue</b>	<b>3/28</b>	9:15 AM	Lectio Divina
<b>Wed</b>	<b>3/29</b>		
<b>Thu</b>	<b>3/30</b>	Noon	WES Team Meeting
<b>Fri</b>	<b>3/31</b>	5:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
<b>Sat</b>	<b>4/1</b>	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>4/2</b>	9:00 AM	Mass

**OPERATION RICE BOWL**

Please bring your Rice Bowl and drop it in the basket in the vestibule starting Palm Sunday.

**First Friday and First Saturday Adoration for April** will be held on April 14 and 15 due to conflicts with Holy Week.



## 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT

Almost six hundred years before the birth of Christ, the prophet Ezekiel had a powerful vision of God's Spirit raising his people to new life. In the valley of dry bones, he prophesied, "O spirit, breathe into these slain that they may come to life" (Ezekiel 39:9). Like Lazarus' resurrection, Ezekiel's vision foretells the new life God gives us today as well as our final resurrection from the dead. For our part, we must accept the grace of baptism if we want God's grace to take root in our lives.

In baptism we rise with Jesus to begin a journey where we will also rise, body and soul, to eternal life at the last judgement. Lazarus was such a powerful witness to Jesus' life-giving power that the Jewish leaders wanted to kill him (John 12:10). Commenting on this, St. Augustine rightly wrote that if they had killed Lazarus, Jesus would have simply raised him again (Homilies on John, 50:14).

John paints Lazarus as a symbol of all of us – dead to God and bound by sin. Like Lazarus, each of us is loved by Jesus. He weeps over our suffering and calls us by name to come out of our tombs of unbelief, self-centeredness, and futility. To those who saw or heard of it, the raising of Lazarus was a sign of Jesus' power over death. But Jesus also knew that Lazarus would die again at some point in the future. The new thing would come about through the cross of Christ. Jesus' resurrection is not meant only to resuscitate us. Jesus' resurrection ensures our passage to a transformed life – beginning the moment we place our trust in him as Lord and Savior.

Paul described how this new life is possible: When we die with Christ in baptism, we also rise with him (Romans 6:8). The same power of the Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is at work within all believers (8:11). We are changed from a natural existence so that we can live spiritually. It is not a life that we possess in and of ourselves, but a life that has its source in God. He promises that as we put our faith in the Holy Spirit, we will be empowered to live this life in a way that is pleasing to him.

Jesus' words to Martha that her brother would rise are the same words he speaks to us every day. Yes, we will rise with Jesus on the last day, but even now we can rise with him daily as we die with him. He has promised it and we can experience it as we unite ourselves with him.

## EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS PILGRIMAGE



The Diocese of Knoxville is ready to roll to Indianapolis for the **10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis July 17-21, 2024**. An overview and details are posted on the bulletin board in Shea Hall. These details can also be found at [Dioknox.org/Revival](http://Dioknox.org/Revival), by email at [Revival@Dioknox.org](mailto:Revival@Dioknox.org), or by phone at 423-596-0181.

**Please note that reservations are filling up fast** so if you are interested, please act quickly. The pricing ranges from \$541-\$1,098 per pilgrim, depending on the occupancy of the room. This includes 4 night hotel accommodations and admission to all events and speakers.

## CATECHISM CORNER

Good Sunday to you all, St. Francis of Assisi Parish members!

This week, I promised to “talk” about the Spiritual Works of Mercy. Even though both the Corporal and Spiritual Works are straightforward, they are EXTREMELY difficult at times! Just be kind with yourself.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy, while not as physically tangible as the Corporal, still provide us with clear ideas for tending to the spiritual needs of one another. These needs of our brothers and sisters might not be as visible as their physical needs, but often times these are where the greatest needs lie. As you can see, these are a little more difficult! The Spiritual Works of Mercy are:

- 1) Admonish the sinner: Do not judge, but be supportive in helping others find their way and correct their mistakes. Together we can learn to walk more closely with Christ. In humility we must strive to create a culture that does not accept sin, while realizing that we all fall at times. When you correct someone, don't be arrogant. We are all in need of God's loving correction.
- 2) Instruct the ignorant: Learn about our faith and be open to talking with others about our beliefs. There is always something more to discover about our faith. Invite someone to go to mass with you this weekend. Volunteer to help with this Catechism Corner. 😊
- 3) Counsel the doubtful: Everyone has moments of doubt in their faith journey. Nevertheless, we should always remember that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and turn to Him along our way. Accompany a friend who is struggling with believing to join a parish group for service or faith formation, share a book you found useful in dealing with your friend's faith concern, and worship at Sunday Mass. Follow Christ with the witness of your life so that others may see God's love revealed in your actions.
- 4) Pray for living and dead: Prayer is one of the most powerful ways we can support others. Joining together in prayer for the living and the dead entrusts us all into God's care. Request a mass intention for a friend or family member who has died or who is going through a tough time. Ask a friend or family member if there is anything you can pray for them about and keep your own book of prayer intentions, writing down the names of those who asked you to pray for them.
- 5) Comfort the sorrowful: Be open to listening and comforting those who are dealing with grief. Even if we aren't sure of the right words to say, our presence can make a big difference. A few moments of your day may make a lifetime of difference to someone who is going through a difficult time. Make a home cooked meal for a friend who is facing a difficult time. Write a letter or send a card to someone who is suffering.
- 6) Forgive injuries: (I have to say this is the MOST difficult one for me!) Forgiving others is difficult at times because we do not have God's limitless mercy and compassion. But Jesus teaches us that we should forgive as God forgives, relying on him to help us show others the mercy of God. Let go of grudges. Participate in the Sacrament of Penance. Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.
- 7) Bear wrongs patiently: (OK, this is hard TOO!) Do not be bitter about wrongs done against you. Place your hope in God so that you can endure the troubles of this world and face them with a compassionate spirit. Frustrated with someone? Step away from the situation, take a few deep breaths, pray the Our Father, asking God for patience.

If you're looking for inspiration on how to live out both the Corporal and the Spiritual Works of Mercy in your life – look to the lives of the Saints! Our parish library has a plethora of books on saints!

As we continue to journey through this Lenten Season, pray with me: Father, we pray that You will open our hearts, heal the wounds of those who are suffering and who are denied their dignity, console and cure them with solidarity and vigilant care overcoming our indifference, routine, destructive cynicism, hypocrisy and egoism. St. Francis Parish, I wish you a most blessed and peaceful week.



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The Gospel today challenges us to see and believe the signs of grace in our lives: joy, peace, forgiveness, mercy and kindness.

**This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist local families by providing food and assisting 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 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.**

April Products: Kleenex/Shampoo/Conditioner



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 26 FROM "THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN"

*Sanctity means separation from the spirit of the world, with immersion in the activity of the world. Saints would be in the world, not of it; they would have no public relation boosters to publicize them; they would never ask for money; perhaps the one venture which would stand out most in their lives would be poverty of spirit.*




**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.



**WES TEAM NEWS**



**WES Team Planning Meeting**  
 March 30, Noon, Shea Hall  
 Lunch will be served.

**Movie Night (Father Stu; PG-13 Version)**  
 April 21, 5 PM; Pizza will be served.  
 Sign up sheets will be posted in early April.

**Smokies Baseball Game w/Fireworks**  
 June 23, 7:00 PM; Buffet at 6:00 PM  
 Cost: \$32 for adults/\$30 for children  
 Includes buffet, non-alcoholic drinks & ticket  
 Sign-up sheets will be posted in May.




**\$ 84.41!!**

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—3/19/2023	
3rd Sunday in Lent—Attendance: 138	
Sunday Offertory .....	\$ 1,816.00
Donation Box .....	0.00
Other Donations* .....	320.00
Total Donations for the Week .....	<u>\$ 2,136.00</u>
Year-to-Date Donations .....	\$ 130,495.72
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations.....	<u>134,368.38</u>
Year-to-Date Donation <b>** (Deficit)</b> .....	<b>(\$ 3,872.66)</b>
<u>Other Donations Not in Budget</u>	
Maintenance Fund .....	\$ 60.00
Catholic Relief Services.....	408.00
CRS Rice Bowl .....	<u>10.00</u>
Total Non-Budget Donations .....	<u>\$ 478.00</u>
* Mass Intentions, Flowers, Candles, Facility Use, etc.	
** Based on Year-to-Date Total Donations minus Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations	
MAINTENANCE FUND COLLECTION—NEXT WEEKEND	

**WEEK 39—52 WAYS TO CARE FOR CREATION** from [laudatosimovement.org](http://laudatosimovement.org)

Ecological Economics

What in the world is “ecological economics”? Aside from being one of our seven established Laudato Si Goals, it takes shape for us as an awareness of the interdependence of goods and services with the ecosystems that are ultimately impacted- human and non-human. The economy exists as a subset of the physical world servicing it; however, our present system disguises it as the end by all means. Ecological economics requires thoughtfulness about production materials and their sources, manufacture and distribution methods, and the waste created at each step. Are resources degraded or renewed? “We urgently need a humanism capable of bringing together the different fields of knowledge, including economics, in the service of a more integral... vision. There is an interrelation between ecosystems and between the various spheres of social interaction, demonstrating yet again that “the whole is greater than the part [LS 141]. As we pray in petition and thanksgiving daily “give us this day our daily bread”, may we be increasingly mindful of the holy value of our resources.

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).

**AN INSPIRATION FOR MARCH 26 FROM “THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS”**

**Tribulations:** *“Without the struggle of afflictions, it is impossible to reach the height of grace. The gift of grace increases as the struggles increase.” - St. Rose of Lima*