



MARCH 5, 2023 2ND 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. 3/6 8:30 AM Beth Clavert †
TUES. 3/7 8:30 AM
WED. 3/8 **NO MORNING MASS**
THURS. 3/9 8:30 AM
FRIDAY 3/10 8:30 AM
SAT. 3/11 4:00 PM Hamp Moore †
SUN. 3/12 9:00 AM Robert Sorvillo †

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: 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.



3rd Lenten Friday - March 10th

Facilitated by the
Conference of Catholic Women

5:00 PM Stations of the Cross

~5:45 PM Meatless Lenten Dinner

~6:15 PM Lenten Reflection: "An Explanation of Eucharistic Miracles"

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	3/6	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	3/7	9:30 AM	Lectio Divina
Wed	3/8		
Thu	3/9		
Fri	3/10	5:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
Sat	3/11	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	3/12	9:00 AM	Mass



PASTOR'S NOTES

2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

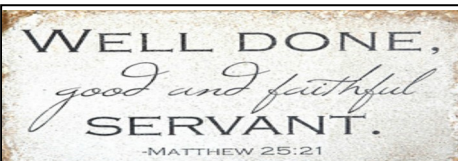
A few years ago, we were discussing in a Priest's meeting ways to effect a big transformation in our parish life. We were asked about ways to draw hundreds of people to our Parish forty years from now. There were many proposals and ideas. However, the one that seemed to fulfill our purpose of being a Church was to become schools for "holiness."

In today's second letter from St. Paul to Timothy, Paul refers to holiness as the purpose of salvation. Many today, as faithful as they can be to practices of faith, believe that holiness is beyond us, that holiness is something reserved for the saints of old or for the exceptional people who publicly dedicate their lives to priesthood or religious life. It just doesn't seem possible for most of us mere mortals to be holy, at least not if we grew up believing holiness is about moral perfection or obvious piety, and certainly not if we believe that holiness is the result of willpower.

Here we are today, hearing the call to holiness, an echo of what began centuries ago in the Jewish Scriptures. In the Book of Leviticus, we associate with many laws and regulations, we read at least six times that God tells his people, "Be holy, for I am holy." God is not directing these words to the priestly class or the scholars; God is directing them to his entire people.

Last Sunday we heard in the Book of Genesis, the beautiful narrative of the creation of man and woman. In today's gospel, we are invited to be transfigured as Jesus was. The Transfiguration is an invitation to contemplate the divine purpose of creation, the divine purpose of life in our planet. We are invited to a higher level of "consciousness." Jesus invites us to experience what it is to live in relationship with God, the Holy One. That holiness begins to seep into our lives as well, as we become more and more to the Holy One who calls us by name and who shapes us as a people.

To be holy is to be set apart. It is God who sets us apart, not in a way that removes us from reality as if it is not worthy of our attention, but in a way that allows us to see the world and ourselves from a divine perspective. God sets us apart so that we will invest ourselves in the work of building the kingdom of God right in the midst of our daily demands. Someone said, holiness right here and now looks like a mom who commits herself to creating a home where discipline is matched with love and forgiveness. It looks like an old man who can no longer work productively, but refuses to become bitter. Holiness looks like a community lifting up a family in prayer and practical support during a difficult time. It looks like a worker who steadily lifts up others so that they learn to shine in their own work. Holiness looks like you as you grow in your desire to experience the loving mercy of God and share it with others.



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. Commitment of her ashes will be at Valley View Baptist Church immediately following the Funeral Service. All are invited.

CATECHISM CORNER

Good and happy Second Sunday of Lent! Please pray with me: Lord Jesus, Your Sacred Heart is on fire with love for us. May that fire warm us and kindle in us our Eucharistic fervor during this Eucharistic Revival! I do hope that you will join the Church as it gathers for the Lenten Fridays Stations of the Cross. During the "Simple Supper", hosted by the different ministries, there will more information about the Eucharistic Revival!

Another discipline we are encouraged to observe during the Lenten Season is of fasting. Fasting is an indispensable part of the spiritual life during the entire liturgical year, but most especially during Lent when it is emphasized as a universal prescription for all Catholics. OK, but why you may ask, I know I have been asked many times why Catholics/Christians fast during Lent?

1. Jesus says so! I don't know about you, but that is a good enough answer for me! In Matthew 6:16, he says: 'When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others...' Instead, do it in secret; it's between you and God. He doesn't explain what fasting is for, he just assumes people will do it. So, there is a strong biblical warrant for this kind of spiritual discipline.
2. We follow in his footsteps. Jesus gave us some pretty good examples and instructions to be more like Him, like when He fasted for 40 days (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:2). The 40 days of Lent are a way of identifying ourselves with Him during the days leading up to His crucifixion and resurrection. Denying ourselves a favorite food or some other luxury is a sign we are walking with Him to the cross.
3. Fasting is a form of offering. I remember complaining during Lent about what I selected to "fast from" and I really wanted to change mid-Lent! My Mother would say: "Just offer it up, Jule!" When we deny ourselves something we enjoy, and which it isn't wrong to want, we are saying there is something more important in our lives than purely physical pleasure. If we fast because we're dieting for our health, it's because how we feel and look is more important. Fasting in Lent means that God is more important.
4. It's a spiritual discipline, hence, all the "talk" about the disciplines of Lent! When we fast, we are exercising our spiritual muscles. When we refrain from a basic physical desire such as eating, we're saying we refuse to be dominated or controlled by the needs of our bodies. If we can deny ourselves food, we can learn to deny ourselves other things too, which may be much more harmful or morally questionable.
5. It reminds us of God.....isn't that what it's ALL about? Many of us get through the day without thinking much about God. But knowing we have to be alert and in control of our instincts, having to fight the temptation to indulge in something we enjoy, reminds us of our discipleship and of his reality in our lives.

Most of us won't try the 'extreme' fasting practiced in some traditions or by the great saints of old. But giving up even small pleasures is a way of drawing nearer to Christ on his way to the cross. Nevertheless, if you gave something up for the Lord, tough it out. Don't act like a Pharisee looking for a loophole. ☺ Pray for each other as we journey through Lent. Have a most blessed week!

Keep those questions coming at jdewtn2018@att.net!



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel Jesus is transfigured and a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased: Listen to him."

Do we listen to Jesus when he asks us to take care of our brothers and sisters who are suffering? Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God's love this Easter.

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 **9:30 to 10:30 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.

A REFLECTION FOR MARCH 5 FROM "THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN"

*The very word mercy is derived from the Latin, **miserum cor**, a sorrowful heart. Mercy is, therefore, a compassionate understanding of another's unhappiness*



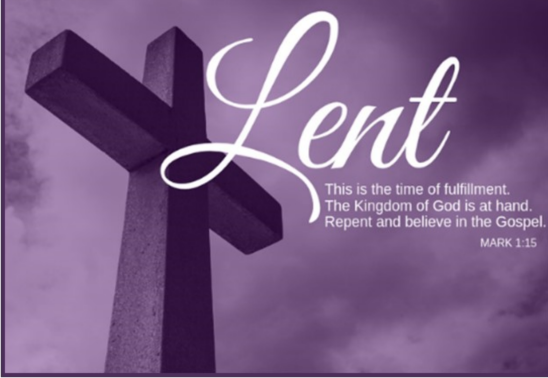
ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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.



AN INSPIRATION FOR MARCH 5 FROM "THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS"

Trusting God: *"I asked you and you would not listen; so I asked my God and He did listen.."* -
St. Scholastica

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—2/22 & 2/26/2023

Ash Wednesday—Attendance: 93
1st Sunday in Lent—Attendance: 119

Sunday Offertory	\$ 1,899.00
Ash Wednesday	780.00
Donation Box	0.00
Easter Flowers.....	395.00
Total Donations for the Week	\$ 3,074.00

Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 120,749.51
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations.....	123,760.35
Year-to-Date Donation (Deficit)	(\$ 3,010.84)

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$ 5.00
Parish Charity	0.00
Central & Eastern Europe Collection	992.00
Black & Indian Missions Collection.....	666.00
Total Non-Budget Donations	\$ 1,663.00

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

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

WEEK 36—52 WAYS TO CARE FOR CREATION from laudatosimovement.org

Offering Prayer for Lent

In paragraph 246 of his encyclical *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis says "We Christians ask for inspiration to take up the commitment to creation set before us by the Gospel of Jesus" and he offers two prayers, both of which remind us of our daily responsibilities as beneficial stewards of this earth and her creatures. Our Week #36 Way to Care for Creation is to reflect on one of these prayers during our practices of abstinence: "God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. Praise be to you! Amen".

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.

SVDP/2ND HARVEST FOOD DISTRIBUTION

On February 24, over 20 St. Vincent de Paul members and parishioners volunteered at a special food distribution to our Townsend neighbors. Almost 70 families (216 individuals) were provided with 7 bags of food each. All food was purchased through Second Harvest at a cost of \$2,500.

A special thank you goes out from Father Antonio and SVDP to all the volunteers who assisted with this distribution and the parishioners who faithfully donate to SVDP to provide the funding for projects such as this. We even had help from three of our young parishioners/family members: Rosie and Grace Rapien and Layla (Julie & Michael Dew's granddaughter).

Another distribution of Easter Food Bags will be made in late March/ to the registered SVDP Neighbors in Need. They will all receive food to prepare their Easter dinner, including a ham, vegetables, potatoes/yams, rolls, butter and a dessert (maybe some Peeps, too!).



PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

Dear Parishioners,

The church has blessed me with leading the "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. I will, as a representative of the church, set up a visit, bring communion, or provide help for you as needed. Also, if you are interested in assisting with this ministry, please contact me.



Suzanne Fay, Pastoral Care and Extraordinary Ministry
Church office: 865-448-6070; Suzanne Fay cell: 423-829-5466

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

A second collection will be taken up on the weekend of March 18 & 19 in support the work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Bishops and Catholic community. With your generosity, CRS is helping to break the cycle of poverty in more than 90 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. CRS also provides emergency relief in the wake of natural disasters. Your donation also assists the work of the U.S. Bishops' Offices of International Justice and Peace, Migration and Refugee Services and Pastoral Care, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, and the relief work of the Holy Father.

There is an envelope in your packet for this or you may donate using your Rice Bowl.



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.

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!**