



**APRIL 2, 2023
PALM SUNDAY**

**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.	4/3	8:30 AM	Henry † & Winifred T. † Mitchell
TUES.	4/4	8:30 AM	Hugh Harbon †
WED.	4/5		NO MORNING MASS
THURS.	4/6	8:30 AM	NO MORNING MASS
FRIDAY	4/7	8:30 AM	NO MORNING MASS
SAT.	4/8	4:00 PM	NO 4:00 PM VIGIL MASS
SUN.	4/9	9:00 AM	Parishioners of St. Francis

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, 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, Annette Zion Baker

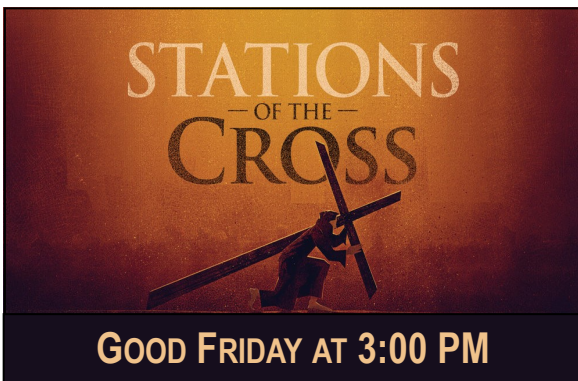
SANCTUARY CANDLE: If you would like to donate to the sanctuary candle fund in memory of or in honor of someone, please contact the Parish Office via phone or email. The cost is \$10.00 for 1 week.



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.



NO MORNING MASS EASTER MONDAY, 4/10



ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	4/3	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	4/4		
Wed	4/5		
Thu	4/6	7:00 PM	Holy Thursday Mass
Fri	4/7	3:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
		7:00 PM	Good Friday Service
Sat	4/8	~8:15 PM	Easter Vigil Service
Sun	4/9	9:00 AM	Easter Mass

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

OPERATION RICE BOWL

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



PALM SUNDAY

As we listen to the Passion narrative on Palm Sunday, we find ourselves immersed in the sorrow of Jesus Christ. However, eternal life is found in Jesus Christ. Today the crowds welcomed Jesus by waving branches and singing out “Hosanna!” while other members of the town may have asked, “Who is this?” This question fuels our prayer as we enter into this intense and incredible week. “Who is this?” rests in our hearts.

This question reveals our need for the Savior, whose passion, death, and resurrection forms our prayer and our service in the world. “Who is this?” shapes our relationship with God. It forms our attitudes and creates a deep yearning to move beyond self-reliance. This question becomes a lens through which we see our own commitments to prayer, love, and the beauty of our work in the church.

This week, we will enter the mystery of the Triduum. We enter in the mystery of Jesus’ actions more intimately as he blesses, breaks, and shares bread with his disciples. Jesus will hold the cup of blessing, sharing it with affection. We too will sip salvation, testing the love Jesus has for us and the world. We will wash feet in our community and caress the beauty of people who walk long journeys of love, service, and integrity.

On Holy Thursday, we will tell the story of our Savior who desires intimacy and communion with all of us. We will gather to listen to the Passion on Good Friday. We will journey to the cross of our redemption. We will reverence the wood of our salvation. We will bring all our questions of life with us. Questions about our un-lived lives, our search for the truth, our ponderings about earth sufferings, our lack of forgiveness, and the turmoil of our regrets. We will sort through our questions about life and the ultimate journey each of us will make to death. On Holy Saturday, at the Easter Vigil, we will bless fire. We will lift light in the darkness. We will listen to salvation’s history. We will bless water for baptism. We will welcome people waiting to belong to such a mystery of Jesus’ resurrection. We will feed on his Body and Blood. We will feel the collective energy of people longing for forgiveness, mercy, and belonging. As we approach the Easter joy, we will also encounter the clumsiness of the disciples. We will encounter denial, sleepiness, regret, and unworthiness in the disciples’ hearts. We know these human attitudes and emotions are the place in which Jesus reveals his answers. “Who is this?” becomes a key to our encounter with divine love, with mercy, and forgiveness. The answers may surprise us. Are you ready for this Holy Week?



HOLY WEEK

HOLY WEEK CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Father Antonio will be in church to hear confessions this week during the following times:

Monday, April 3: 9-11 am

Tuesday, April 4: 9-11 am

Thursday, April 6: 9-11 am

Friday, April 7: 9-11 am

CATECHISM CORNER

Here we are at Palm Sunday! The Church celebrates this Paschal mystery – the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ – annually during Holy Week. This most holy week begins with Palm (or Passion) Sunday.

During this coming Holy Week, we will celebrate in our Church calendar year what is called the Triduum. And what exactly is the Triduum? The word Triduum has Latin roots, meaning "**the three days**". The Triduum is a season separating the Lenten and Resurrection seasons and spans three days - the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and concludes after the evening prayer on Easter Sunday. Sometimes, people use the word in other contexts, but most of the time it refers to the Paschal (Easter) Triduum. The Triduum is the highest point of the entire liturgical year!

Last year I talked briefly about each day of the Triduum, but this year I would like to reflect on the three disciplines that we all tried to concentrate on during the Lenten Season – I know, I tried, but it is difficult! I've "talked" about the three pillars/disciplines of Lent: almsgiving, prayer and fasting. So, how did you do? With **almsgiving**, I hope we reflected on making the needs of others our own, especially the needy of our world or the sick and the suffering right here in our parish, our families and friends in need, or how about that next-door neighbor in need? Did you take a "Rice Bowl" home with you and contribute? Reflecting on **prayer**, this Lenten time offered us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. Did you attend the Stations of the Cross on the Fridays of Lent and attend the simple suppers? Did you take one or all of the materials offered to help you reflect on your prayer life? And your **fasting**..... did you smile and go about your day happy? Did you think about what you chose to "give up"? Do you think God needs the chocolate, candy, and other trivial things that we fast from? No, He needs us to look deep within ourselves and reflect. He wants our hearts. I believe He wants us to stop our obsession with the ME and start thinking about what truly matters in life – our relationship with Him – a deeper and a closer relationship/communion with Him! And now, that fourth discipline Father talked about. I call it the CPR of our lives. C – confession; P – penance; and R – reconciliation. We are so blessed that we did have a "Penance Service" during Lent to help us with this discipline – did you attend? In addition, Father receives penitents before the weekend Masses or any time by appointment – all you need to do is call the office. He (Christ) is waiting!

Lent is a journey and with the Church's advice/help of almsgiving, prayer, fasting and the "CPR" of our spiritual life, I hope that we find ourselves somewhere different than where we started. I hope that our Lenten journey gave us some time of quiet and prayer, a time of penance and meditation, a time to become aware of our strengths and weaknesses and we can say, now, that we have the "attitude of gratitude." (Quoted from a very good friend of our family – Father Guy Fenger, he always ended his homilies with that!) So, instead of priding ourselves on how "well" we observed the Lenten practices – we are invited to focus our gaze on keeping the suffering of Christ ever before our eyes in the person of the poor, the sick, the imprisoned and the dying.

Have a most beautiful Triduum filled with many blessings!

Keep those questions coming at jdewtn2018@att.net!





THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today is Palm Sunday and the beginning of the holiest of Christian weeks. Let us pray for the grace to take up our own cross and to follow Jesus through death to new life.

Please support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the poor as they carry their cross of suffering and pain.

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 APRIL "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"

Thank You for all the paper towels and cereal.

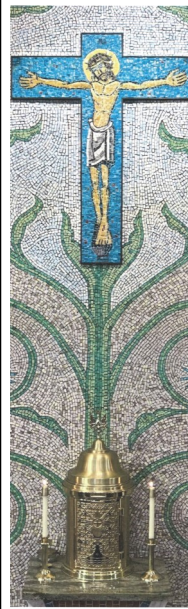
Our Products of the Month for April are:

Kleenex/Shampoo and Conditioner

**HELPING CHRISTIANS
IN THE HOLY LAND**
The Pontifical Good Friday Collection

A second collection will be taken up on Good Friday, April 7, in support of the Pontifical Collection for the Holy Land. This collection, in the words of Paul VI is "not only for the Holy Places but above all for those pastoral, charitable, educational, and social works which the Church supports in the Holy Land for the welfare of their Christian brethren and of the local communities." Your generosity also assists those such as the Franciscans who have been in the Holy Land since 1209 caring for the poor, protecting the Holy shrines, and keeping the light of Christianity alive.



THANK YOU

For your commitment to the *Bishop's Appeal for Ministries!*

Thank you for living out the life of a Christian disciple and serving each other as one Church!



Diocese of
KNOXVILLE



**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



Movie Night (Father Stu; PG-13 Version)

April 21, 5 PM;

Pizza will be served.

— Sign up sheets are on the counter in Shea

— Hall. **POSTPONED**

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.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—3/26/2023

5th Sunday in Lent—Attendance: 159

Sunday Offertory	\$ 2,459.00
Donation Box	100.00
Other Donations*	10.00
Total Donations for the Week	\$ 2,569.00

Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 133,064.72
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations.....	137,904.39
Year-to-Date Donation ** (Deficit)	(\$ 4,839.67)

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$ 335.00
Parish Charity	35.00
Catholic Relief Services.....	300.00
Total Non-Budget Donations	\$ 670.00

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

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

**NO MORNING MASS EASTER MONDAY,
APRIL 10, 2023**

PREGNANCY HELP CENTER SEEKING ULTRASOUND NURSE MANAGER

Are you ready to make a difference in the lives of women and their unborn babies? Do you have a passion for providing compassionate care and support to women facing unexpected pregnancies? Catholic Charities of East Tennessee is seeking a skilled and dedicated Ultrasound Nurse Manager to join our Pregnancy Service team. If you are a licensed RN with experience in ultrasound imaging and a heart for serving others, we want to hear from you! This is a unique opportunity to use your skills and expertise to make a meaningful impact in the lives of women and their families. Visit www.ccetn.org/job-listings for more information or submit resume to hr@ccetn.org indicating "Nurse Manager" in the subject line.

WEEK 40—52 WAYS TO CARE FOR CREATION from laudatosimovement.org

Ecological Spirituality

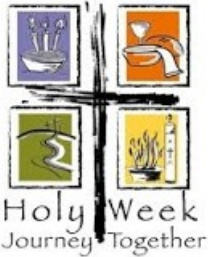
A fourth established goal of the Laudato Si Movement is the adoption of an Ecological Spirituality for all people who reap the benefits of the wonders of God's creation- air, soil, water, energy, and other creatures. This mindset enables us to see our surroundings as "sacred ground" as opposed to calculations of their monetary value or uses as products. During the multiplication of the fish and the loaves, Jesus insisted that nothing was wasted (John 6:12). His words and actions implied that every gift from God was necessary and precious. Ecological spirituality allows us to appreciate the value in these gifts which like us, were created to give glory to God. During this Holy Week of joy and sorrow, may we carefully listen to "hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" [LS 49], and also "Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope" [LS 244].

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.

St. Francis of Assisi 2023 Easter Triduum Services

April 6, 7, and 8

One liturgy celebrated over the period of 3 days



The Easter Triduum (pronounced Trih-dew-um) services at St. Francis of Assisi Church are three of the most moving, reverent, and spiritually rewarding services in the entire Liturgical Year. If you have never attended an Easter Triduum service here at St. Francis, you owe it to yourself and your family to attend the Triduum services. Come be a part of your St. Francis parish family this Holy Week and share in the Easter Triduum experience on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil—one liturgy celebrated over the period of 3 days.

The Easter Triduum:

The three-day celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ

SECOND COLLECTION ON EASTER SUNDAY HELP SUPPORT SEMINARIAN EDUCATION

On Easter Sunday, a second collection will be taken up in support of Diocesan Seminarian Education. Though we are one of the smallest dioceses in the U.S., we are blessed with a rich harvest of vocations to the priesthood. Presently, we have 14 seminarians enrolled in studies—3 who will be ordained to the priesthood shortly. And God willing, we will hope to have 15 seminarians for the 2023-24 academic year. But with this wonderful blessing comes a financial challenge. The cost of educating just one seminarian is over \$50,000. Your investment in the future of the priesthood is greatly needed to help guarantee the growth of the Catholic faith in East Tennessee. Please be generous in supporting our Diocesan Seminarians in their formation as they endeavor through the grace of God to become your future priests.

OLD PALMS AND BLESSED ARTICLES



Old palms and any blessed articles must be disposed of by either burning them or burying them. If you have any old palms or blessed articles that need to be disposed of, please bring them to church on Palm Sunday or during Holy Week and place them in the basket marked "Easter Vigil Fire" in the church alcove. These items will be burned in the Easter Vigil Fire on Holy Saturday.

No 8:30 AM MORNING MASS

There will be no morning Masses on the following days:

Thursday, April 6

Friday, April 7

Monday, April 10



EASTER FLOWERS

The Easter Flowers on the Altar have been donated by several parishioners in memory or honor of someone they know.

In Memory of

Gerri & P.J. Schlosser	Ray & Rita Polak
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Czerniewski	Rita Hamilton
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Tkatch	David & Ruth
Ann McTavish	Mike Luck
Marion Ganley	Philip Peychal
Norman & Lucille Weiland	Ralph & Herma Peychal
Cheryl Korth	George Szekely
Lois Zehnder	Edward Szekely
Lois & Elmer Szekely	Mable & William Hurles
Ward Swartz	Rita & Robert DuRussel
Sally DuRussel	Angeline & Gene Solgat
Gene Solgat Jr.	Duane Johnson
David Reinbold	Nicola Patitucci

In Honor of

Our Guardian Angels & Saints	Cam King
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AN INSPIRATION FOR APRIL 2 FROM "THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS"

Good Thoughts: *"Occupy your mind with good thoughts, or the enemy will fill them with bad ones."*
St. Thomas More

A REFLECTION FOR APRIL 2 FROM "THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN"

The true notion is that the material universe is a sign or an indication of what God is. We look at the purity of the snowflake and we see something of the goodness of God. The world is full of poetry: it is sin which turns it into prose.



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, by email at 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.