



APRIL 23, 2023 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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. 4/24 8:30 AM Len Rapien[†]
TUES. 4/25 8:30 AM Jeanne Villardo[†]
WED. 4/26 NO MORNING MASS
THURS. 4/27 8:30 AM Pam Moretti[†]
FRIDAY 4/28 8:30 AM Elizabeth Quinn[†]
SAT. 4/29 4:00 PM Bob Hubbard[†]
SUN. 4/30 9:00 AM Lucas[†] & Mary[†] Simons

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, Judy Sanders, Doreen Mancuso, 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, Kim Brown, Robert Modisett, Tony Foster, Mary Sellers, Claire Cheadle, Bea Daily, Annette Zion Baker, Kathy Janke, Charlotte Fernandez, Lee Robey, Jennifer Reed

SANCTUARY CANDLE: *For a Special Intention for an ailing friend given by Julie & Michel Dew.* 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: *In Memory of Lucas & Mary Simons given by Eric & Gail Simons.* 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.



NATIONAL COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

Please be generous in supporting the Catholic Home Missions Appeal on April 29 and 30. This collection helps to strengthen the Catholic Church in the United States in its 87 mission territories. As the Diocese of Knoxville is one of the smallest dioceses in the nation, it is a direct beneficiary of Catholic Home Missions assistance. Your generosity in support of this appeal is greatly appreciated for the additional blessings it brings to our diocese. Thank you.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	4/24	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	4/25		
Wed	4/26		
Thu	4/27		
Fri	4/28		
Sat	4/29	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	4/30	9:00 AM	Mass



3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Today's gospel is a story of discouragement and hope. We all experience discouragements and disappointment at times throughout our lives. We even get discouraged with God. St. Luke tells us a story today about how two people met with discouragement after seeing how Jesus had been put to death. They had hoped he would drive the Romans out of Israel and restore freedom and self-government to Israel. When Jesus died, their hopes were shattered and they walked away. How often we want to walk away from God when he doesn't do the things we want him to.

Even when we turn our back to God, he doesn't turn his back to us. St. Luke wants us to know that even in our discouragement and disappointment we are not alone. We may not recognize God's presence as we go. But it's there. Most of us remember the poem that was very popular a few years ago: Footprints in the Sand. He promised us: "I will be with you always."

St. Luke is telling us also that in hard times, the Scriptures can throw new light on the difficulties we are having. Jesus helped these two disciples to understand the Scriptures better, renewing their hope. As they said, "Were not our hearts burning within us as he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us." I don't know you, but I can't count how many times that has happened to me that when I felt discouragement, God's word lifted my spirits. God's word is always a word that gives hope.

As the story goes on, the disciples invited the stranger to stay with them longer. Before they knew it, Jesus was breaking bread with them and suddenly they recognized Jesus and they knew he was alive. Luke used the same gestures to describe what Jesus did in the Last Supper.

There is one last piece to this story, the two disciples returned to the community of believers. They had given up their hope in Jesus as the savior of God's people and they walked away from the community of those still gathered in Jerusalem who believed in him. Their encounter with Christ on the road, in the Scriptures, in the hospitality they offered him, in the breaking of bread, restored all their hope and joy. And they came back to the Church, the community of believers they have left. It is there they continue to remain united with Christ.

When disappointment fills our hearts with sadness and darkness, we can let it consume us or we can let God help us find light and healing, for God is our only hope.

AN INSPIRATION FOR APRIL 23 FROM "THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS"

Resurrection: *"Let us not forget that Jesus not only suffered, but also rose in glory; so, too, we go to the glory of the Resurrection by way of suffering and the Cross."* St. Maximillian Kolbe

A REFLECTION FOR APRIL 23 FROM "THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN"

To pass from sadness to joy requires a birth, a moment of travail and labor, for no one ever mounts to a higher level of life without death to the lower.

CATECHISM CORNER

Happy Third Sunday of Easter St. Francis of Assisi! During Lent, I briefly wrote about the Works of Mercy. I've been asked to "elaborate" about them. Well, I've never been accused of passing on more information! This information that I will share I have used during my 36 years of teaching catechism and in the Catholic School where I was employed for 28 years.

Today, we will highlight the Corporal Works of Mercy to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty. On the surface at least, feeding the hungry seems fairly straightforward. We can help the hungry in simple ways by making monetary donations to the local food bank, or if we have time, by helping at a local soup kitchen for the homeless. (This is where I write an endorsement for our St. Vincent de Paul Society!) Moreover, unlike Christians in the ancient and medieval world (when the corporal works of mercy was first compiled), we can take the time to educate ourselves about the problem of hunger in the world, and we can use our voices and our votes to petition and pressure our politicians to make the fight against hunger a higher priority for our government.

Giving drink to the thirsty can also be accomplished through our role as voters by supporting clean water policies to ensure that there will be clean water for future generations to drink. Right in our own homes we can make our contributions to the effort to preserve clean, fresh water by using environmentally friendly laundry detergents or by trying to be moderate in the amount of water we use.

At my previous employer, All Saints Catholic School in Sunrise, Florida, the HCA (Holy Childhood Association) would donate proceeds from their fundraising efforts to "Heifer International." This organization, through donations provide what is called "Gift Of Water For Life." We were able "buy" goats, chickens, water pumps, etc. The Heifer's Mission is simple: "We work to end hunger and poverty while caring for the earth in partnership with the communities we serve." If you look up their **extensive** Mission statement, it simple is the old adage of "if you give a man a fish, they eat for one day, but if you teach a man to fish, they eat for a lifetime." This proverb shows the depth of Heifer International by teaching the means to survive and provide for their community. In addition, the Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy, an apostolate of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, have done remarkable work in bringing fresh water to areas of the world suffering without it.

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta dedicated her life to picking up the poor and the suffering from the streets of Calcutta and other major cities in India and providing for them the most basic necessities: food, shelter, a blanket and a bit of human warmth and kindness. Many were desperately sick with incurable illnesses, but it made no difference to St. Mother Teresa and her Sisters of Charity. They were committed to loving the poor as "Jesus in disguise," the sisters saw the Lord as truly present in all who suffer.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share more about these Works of Mercy. Next week, we will "concentrate" on the Corporal Work of "Shelter the Homeless."

Thank you to all who help and support our Little Church on the River's St. Vincent de Paul Society. I know your gracious donations are greatly appreciated. This is what we do as a Catholic Church – neighbors helping neighbors. Have a most beautiful week!



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In this Sunday's Gospel, as we hear the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we also come to know that our daily reaching out to our neighbor is our daily walk with the risen Christ; we recognize him in others.

This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought the love and care of Jesus to the poor by providing over 80 Easter Baskets containing hams and side dishes for an Easter meal to families in the Townsend/Blount County area. 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 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"

Our Products of the Month for April are **Kleenex/Shampoo and Conditioner**
Next month we will be collecting coffee (instant and ground—small containers only)
and Coffee Creamer



*Are you or someone you know discerning a call to the
priesthood, diaconate, or religious life?*



Learn more at www.dioknox.org/vocations
Diocese of Knoxville Vocation Office 865-584-3307

World Day of Prayer will be observed on Sunday, April 30, 2023 also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes.

PARISH CHARITY (GREEN ENVELOPE)

It's been a while since we've mentioned the green envelopes included in your envelope packets. The parish is still supporting the Pregnancy Centers of East Tennessee which is under the administration of the Catholic Charities of East Tennessee (CETN). In addition to assisting women through their pregnancies, CETN now has a program which provides Adoption Services to assist both prospective parents and pregnant women.

**CANCELLATION OF FIRST SATURDAY
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Please note that we will no longer be holding First Saturday Eucharistic Adoration. Any questions or comments should be given to Jackie Wagner at 330-807-8663.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—4/16/2023

2nd Sunday of Easter—Attendance: 163

Sunday Offertory	\$ 3,974.50
Easter	\$125.00
Donation Box	0.00
Other Donations*	270.00
Total Donations for the Week	<u>\$ 4,369.50</u>

Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 147,513.83
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations	<u>148,512.42</u>
Year-to-Date Donation ** (Deficit)	(\$ 998.59)

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$ 85.00
Parish Charity	60.00
Diocesan Seminary Fund	<u>200.00</u>
Total Non-Budget Donations	<u>\$ 345.00</u>

* Mass Intentions, Flowers, Candles, Facility Use, etc.
 ** Based on Year-to-Date Total Donations minus Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations

WEEK 43—52 WAYS TO CARE FOR CREATION from laudatosimovement.org

Response to the Cry of the Earth

In 2021, the Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to two scientists for their explanations of the complex system of our planet's climate, and how humanity's activities impact climate, including temperature rise- specifically "for the physical modelling of Earth's climate and reliably predicting global warming" due to the unprecedented increase in CO2 gas emitted by combustion of fossil fuels. Notably, they worked on this modelling in the 1960s and have observed their predictions play out accurately for the next five decades. As Christians, we **hear the Cry of the Earth** in Pope Francis' Laudato Si encyclical as he says "The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it" [LS 23]. These ten actions promoted by the United Nations is a great start for awareness and change (www.un.org/en/actnow/ten-actions) .

The Care for Creation group meets twice a month on the **first and third Thursday of every month** 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. CLARE GIFT SHOP
 OPEN FOR BUSINESS
 AFTER WEEKEND MASSES

Please stop by the Gift Shop after mass. We still have **Easter** items and gifts for **Baptism, First Communion** and **Confirmation** celebrations. We can also open the Gift Shop during the week by appointment