



APRIL 30, 2023 GOOD SHEPHERD 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.	5/1	8:30 AM	Marion Laubenthal [†]
TUES.	5/2	8:30 AM	Richard Rowan [†]
WED.	5/3	NO MORNING MASS	
THURS.	5/4	8:30 AM	Evelyn Provenzo [†]
FRIDAY	5/5	8:30 AM	Cam King & Family
SAT.	5/6	4:00 PM	William M. Welch [†]
SUN.	5/7	9:00 AM	Mike Diehl [†]

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 Montera, 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, Dan Hogan

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.



**FIRST FRIDAY
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Friday, May 5

Mass: 8:30 AM
Adoration: 9 AM—Noon
Benediction: Noon

Saturday Adoration has been cancelled until further notice. If you are interested in committing to a Holy Hour for either First Friday or First Saturday, please contact Jackie Wagner at 330-807-8663.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	5/1	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	5/2		
Wed	5/3	5:00 PM	SVDP
Thu	5/4		
Fri	5/5	9:00 AM	Adoration
Sat	5/6	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	5/7	9:00 AM	Mass



GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday. Jesus is the model Good Shepherd. He cares for his sheep; they know his voice. There is ownership. Jesus knows his sheep; He knows them by name. He is in a loving relationship with them, which is why he is willing to lay down his life for them.



In today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles, not only does Peter claim that Jesus of Nazareth was the long-prophesized-about Messiah (Ckristos); Peter also declares that Jesus is the Lord (Kyrios). Many Christian Scholars suggest that in this statement Peter is not claiming that Jesus is simply a leader of what came to be known as Christianity or that Jesus was an early Lord over a group of people. Instead, they have concluded that Peter was making a direct proclamation about Jesus' divinity. Through the waters of baptism, all of us are called to new life in Jesus Christ. The Good News of salvation is offered not to one select group of people but rather, to each and every one of us.

So how ought we to respond to this offer of salvation? How should a Christian two thousand years after the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth act toward others having heard the depth of Christ's sacrifice and the promise of eternal life? Today's second reading from the First Letter of St. Peter makes it clear that Christians ought to imitate Christ. Jesus' life on earth and the Scriptures inspired by God leave us clear examples of how we should do our best to not respond to evil with more evil. We should even prepare our hearts to imitate Jesus' decision to lay down his life for another. The message of Easter is to live our lives for others out of love and devotion to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Today's gospel passage is the favorite of many of Jesus' disciples today. This Good Shepherd knows his sheep, and they know him. What many of us haven't had the opportunity to learn is that the life of a shepherd can be difficult. It isn't as glamorous as we might think. In Jesus' day the job of a shepherd was lonely, harsh, and dangerous. If the sheep were attacked, whether by animal or human, the shepherd had to be ready to lay down his life for the sheep.

Jesus, of course isn't talking about real shepherding, he is talking about his relationship to his people, that intimate personal bond that Jesus has for his followers – for us. He did lay down his life for us. In Scripture, to know is to love. The shepherd loves his sheep, and they love him. Our model for this is the relationship between the Father and Jesus, his Son. It was this bond that enabled Jesus to lay down his life for us.

To Shepherd as Jesus shepherds is a decision. Such a decision does not always bring about nice, "wooly" feelings. Sometimes is not fun, it is costly, it hurts and there is little reward. Just think of Jesus hanging on the cross.

Hired hands, on the contrary, are different. They care for the sheep out of self-interest, so when there is danger, they run away. It's just a job, a way of earning money. These shepherds look out for themselves rather than the sheep. Jesus wants us to be honest in how we care for our families, our neighbors, all his people, but especially for those most exploited, the weakest. If we really want to be called children of God, then we must truly care for these and truly be persons who know and love Jesus.

(CONT. ON BACK)

PASTOR'S NOTES (CONT.)

This is what the imitation of Jesus is all about. We are not shepherds as a profession or career. Instead, it is an option for life, for how we live, as Jesus' crucifixion for our salvation was his free decision. We are shepherds of our brothers and sisters; we have the obligation to care for them and this obligation we need to accept willingly, freely. The poor, the needy, the sick, the outcast, the refugees, the immigrants, are all our brothers and sisters. We might be misunderstood in speaking up for them. We might experience hostility. That does not excuse us from our obligation to be good shepherds.

If we are children of God, then we must act as children of God. We are to courageously and generously care for our needy brothers and sisters. We are to speak up in love and against injustice. Our Father, the Father of Jesus our brother, expects this from us just as he expected it of Jesus. He is with us, loving us. Let's do our best as his beloved children.

Good Shepherd Sunday is also Vocation Sunday. We are reminded of the important role religious vocations play in guiding us in the ways of Christ. This is the life I have been living for almost 35 years and it has been a privilege. I've had wonderful times as a priest and difficult times too, but we cannot escape difficult times in this life. As I look back over the years, I suspect that if I had lived my life in any other way than as a priest, I would not have found the peace and happiness that I enjoy. I just wanted to put in a good word for the religious life and I would like to see many others come forward with a similar desire to serve him as a priest, deacon (permanent deacon), religious brother and sister. Please keep that in your prayers today.

AN INSPIRATION FOR APRIL 30 FROM "THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS"

Heaven: *"Jesus told me, 'My heaven would not be complete without you.'" St. Gertrude the Great*

A REFLECTION FOR APRIL 30 FROM "THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN"

"I am often asked, 'After Mother Teresa who?' That will be no trouble. God will find someone who is more humble, more obedient, more faithful, someone with a deeper faith, and He will do still greater things through her."

VIDALIA ONIONS ANYONE?



Our One Heart Columbia Vidalia onion sale is underway in Shea Hall. They are now available after Masses. The cost is \$10.00 for a 10 lb. bag and the proceeds will be used to purchase food bags for needy families in Marsella, Columbia.

Onions not your thing? If you would like to, you can make a donation of any amount towards the purchase of a food bag. Your donation will go directly toward purchasing food to fill a food bag. For more information or to reserve your onions, please call the office (865-448-6070) or Kathy Meyerkord (630-698-5563)

CATECHISM CORNER



Welcome to the Fourth Sunday of Easter St. Francis! This Corner we will concentrate on the Corporal Works of "Shelter the Homeless and Clothe the Naked". We can practice this work of mercy by using, once again, our votes. There is room for honest disagreement among Catholics, of course, as to what kinds of governmental policies will most effectively achieve those goals, but our universal concern for the plight of the poor must be acknowledged as a genuine priority. Please read the CCC #2448.

There are also well-established groups that specialize in relieving the problem of homelessness. Supporting their work is almost always a great way to practice these Works of Mercy. For example, Habitat for Humanity enables volunteers to actually lend a hand in building brand-new homes for the poor and underprivileged. If you have ever seen their volunteers in action, it is reminiscent of the old prairie tradition of "barn raising" during which the whole local community would come together to help a farmer who needed a new barn, and they would put it up in a single day! My husband, when he worked for FLPD, had the opportunity to help the community he worked in be part of building a new home through the Habitat for Humanity program. My previous experience with helping with the homelessness was with mothers with small children. Our Church community would house these families for one to two weeks at a time and supply food, water, lodging and bathroom facilities and "entertainment" for the children by supplying toys, puzzles, books, crayons, playdoh etc. during that time frame. Also, our parishioners would offer clothing for the children and mothers because there were times that they left an abusive environment with the clothes on their backs! The clothing for the mothers was important to help with employment interviews and supplying clothing for the children helped with their self-image and confidence. The organization that we partnered with would supply transportation for the children to go to school or daycare and transportation for the mothers to help them find employment and permanent housing. If my memory is correct the name of the organization is "HOPE South". Many of the mothers and children were homeless due to domestic violence, so this brings to the surface the many reasons for homelessness which could be poverty, mental disorder/health, affordable housing, or unemployment. "Speaking" of clothing, we can go through our closets and find garments to donate to the needy. Local thrift shops, like KARM, are happy to make the donations available to the needy at a low cost. KARM in Maryville turns your donations into gift cards. These gift cards are distributed to the area needy by our SVDP! When you donate to KARM in Maryville, just tell them that you're from St. Francis of Assisi in Townsend!

Please reflect on this: whether you are working or have retired, you are/have earning/earned money to provide food and drink, clothing and shelter for your own families, and those of you who cook and clean at home are already practicing these Corporal Works of Mercy – outwardly. Why not practice them inwardly now as well, from the heart, not grudgingly (I know I complain EVERY time I have to clean bathrooms!), but with compassion and love for your spouse and children/grandchildren, doing all to the glory of God and giving thanks to God the Father for providing for all your needs (1Cor 10:31, Col 3:17). In this way, as St. Paul wrote, the simplest daily chore becomes "a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God," a true "spiritual worship" (Rom 12:1). Ok, when it's put THAT way – no more complaints!



Next week we will concentrate on: Visit those in Prison and Comfort the Sick!



COME JOIN OUR SUMMERTIME WES TEAM EVENT!

What: Tennessee Smokies Baseball Game
When: June 23; 6:00 pm
Where: Yee-Haw at the Yard; TN Smokies Stadium
Cost: \$32 for adults, \$30 for children (12 and under)

We are once again planning an event at Smokies Stadium. We had over 40 people attend last year and we had a great time, in spite of the rain. The price includes a ticket to the game, access to the Yee-Haw at the Yard Party Deck (in left field) and a buffet which includes hickory Smoked pork BBQ, smoked BBQ chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, spinach artichoke dip w/tortilla chips, hot dog bar, chocolate cookies and Pepsi products. Also included are fireworks after the game. If you plan on attending, please contact Kathy or Ilene at the office (865-448-6070) to make a reservation. A sign-up sheet will also be available in Shea Hall starting **next weekend**.



Payment will be due by June 5. Please make checks payable to St. Francis of Assisi. You may drop your payment in the collection basket in an envelope marked "Smokies Ball Game", mail it to the church office, or drop it off during office hours. Hope to see you all.



MAY 6 & 7 SECOND COLLECTION MAINTENANCE FUND

Your donations made to this fund will help pay for the rising cost of maintaining our aging buildings and to continue with preventative maintenance. Thank you for your support of this fund! You may use the envelope that came in your envelope packet or mark on a plain envelope or on the check that it is for the Maintenance Fund.



WELCOMING, EVENTS & SOCIAL TEAM (WEST) MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 2 AT NOON

We have several events in the works for this summer and fall. It was agreed to host a **Smokies Baseball Game** night for our summer activity (see article above). We are also planning a **fall gathering** on October 8th, a **pet blessing** on September 30th, and our **Christmas Party** tentatively on December 10th.

We'd love to have you come to the meeting this **Tuesday, May 2 at noon** to help us plan these activities. New faces are always welcome. A light lunch will be served.





THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today, we celebrate "Good Shepherd Sunday" where we reflect on Jesus' care and love of us and hear his words, "I came so that they may have life and have it more abundantly."

By your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you will reveal the love of the "Good Shepherd" to your suffering brothers and sisters.

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 MAY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"

Thanks for all the Shampoo, Conditioner and Tissues!

Our Products of the Month for May are

**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 is observed today, 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.

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SUMMARY
7/1/2022– 3/31/2023

Year-to-Date Total Donation..... \$ 133,973.20
 Year-to-Date **Actual** Expenses 135,983.68
 Year-to-Date **Deficit** **(\$ 2,010.48)**

Note that these numbers will not agree exactly with what is reported under Weekly Stewardship. There are misc. income and expense items which are reported to us by the Diocese monthly (interest income, etc.)

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—4/23/2023

3rd Sunday of Easter—Attendance: 148

Sunday Offertory \$ 2,736.00
 Donation Box..... 110.00
 Other Donations* 80.00
 Total Donations for the Week..... \$ 2,926.00

Year-to-Date Donations \$ 150,439.83
 Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations 152,048.43
 Year-to-Date Donation ** **(Deficit)** **(\$ 1,608.60)**

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund \$ 300.00
 Parish Charity..... 300.00
 Catholic Home Missions..... 5.00
 Diocesan Seminary Fund 300.00
 Total Non-Budget Donations \$ 345.00

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

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

WEEK 44—52 WAYS TO CARE FOR CREATION from laudatosimovement.org

Community Resilience and Empowerment

In Chapter 13 of his encyclical, Pope Francis writes: "The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. Particular appreciation is owed to those who tirelessly seek to resolve the tragic effects of environmental degradation on the lives of the world's poorest" [LS 13]. What is that integral development he speaks of? Briefly, it is the awareness that everything is interconnected, as in our physical environment, our communities, our economies, and our lifestyles, and making decisions that show we realize our impact. For Christians and all people of good will, this also includes our spirituality. If we create opportunity in our communities to raise the voices of those who are not usually heard when decisions are made, we are empowering all of God's creation to live its fullest life and assure resources and unspoiled beauty for generations to come. If we can readjust our definition of "wants and needs", we are starting to live the Laudato Si (Praise Be) life which benefits all.

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.