



## MAY 14, 2023 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

**PASTOR:** 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](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. 5/15 8:30 AM** Francis Angle †  
**TUES. 5/16 8:30 AM**  
**WED. 5/17** **NO MORNING MASS**  
**THURS. 5/18 8:30 AM** Gerry Eberhardt  
**FRIDAY 5/19 8:30 AM** Ken † & Carol † Sedlack  
**SAT. 5/20 4:00 PM** Bob & Debbie Eberhardt  
**SUN. 5/21 9:00 AM** Elizabeth Quinn †

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, Elise Martin, Paula Watson

**SANCTUARY CANDLE:** *In Honor of a friend of the Parish and his prayer mission for Peace in Ukraine.* 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 Pam Moretti given by Jim Moretti.* 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.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO FATHER ANTONIO!**

As those of you at Mass this past weekend know, Father has been appointed as PASTOR of St. Francis of Assisi, effective May 6, 2023.

There will be a formal installation by the Bishop on August 6 at the 9 am Mass so add that date to your calendar.

*Congratulations*

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>5/15</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Church &amp; Hall Cleaning</b>
<b>Tue</b>	<b>5/16</b>		
<b>Wed</b>	<b>5/17</b>		
<b>Thu</b>	<b>5/18</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>5/19</b>		
<b>Sat</b>	<b>5/20</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Vigil Mass</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>5/21</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Mass</b>



## PASTOR'S NOTES

### 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Father has given us a Paraclete, a Comforter, an Advocate, the guiding Spirit of truth and love to be with us forever: to dwell with us, remain with us, abide in our hearts and be with us always!

In today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles, those baptized by Philip in Samaria, did not experience the coming of the Spirit until Peter and John came and imposed hands on them, praying that they might receive the Holy Spirit. And yet the Spirit had already been given to them, as to everyone, at Baptism, and was in fact already dwelling in their hearts.

Baptism gives us divine life; a share in the infinite, eternal life of God. Just as we must grow and develop as persons in order to experience being fully alive as human beings, so we have to grow in the life of grace in order to experience the Holy Spirit within us. As we grow in grace, we reflect more deeply as disciples on the words of Jesus. As we embody them more creatively in our lives, we bear witness to Gospel values as prophets. As we accept our baptismal priesthood and offer ourselves with Christ in the Eucharist and ourselves with him for the life of the world, we learn to let go of our inhibitions and live out our faith and love in life-giving ways. As we show our concern for the world and take responsibility for renewing society as stewards of the kinship of Christ, we act as a "royal priesthood". As we enter more and more fully into the commitment and consecration of our Baptism, we experience more and more the gift of the Holy Spirit abiding with us, speaking through us, acting with us, dwelling within us, given to us to be with us always.

We experience the Spirit not as someone "out there". But as the abiding Presence, within us, through whom we relate to the Father as Father and to the Son as Son. Through the gift of the Spirit we know God as only the Son can know the Father. Knowing the Father as Father and the Son as Son, we know the Spirit as Spirit: Indwelling gift as abiding within us, acting within us, remaining within us to be with us always!

Anticipating his Ascension, Jesus promised his disciples an Advocate, one who hears and answers our cries for help, who strengthens us to keep his commandments, even when the world cannot comprehend our reason for doing so. Like the disciples who were with Jesus before his Ascension, we are called to apply all that Jesus showed and taught in our daily lives.

We may feel timid about living as a follower of Jesus; we might be tempted to "go with the flow" rather than standing up for what we know is right; we might be battered by the storms of life. Still, we have hope in the risen Lord, the strength of the Holy Spirit, and the assurance that God is with us, especially when the circumstances of life and living as people of faith is challenging. It may be in those most challenging moments in life, when we hold on to with hope in the Lord, that we have an opportunity to witness to God's enduring love, mercy, and strength. And through us our family members, friends, and coworkers may be drawn to Christ.

## CATECHISM CORNER

On this Sixth Sunday of Easter, we will be “talking” about the Corporal Work of Mercy to “Bury the Dead.” The bodies of the dead must be treated with respect and charity, in the hope of the Resurrection. This Corporal Work of Mercy honors the children of God, who are temples of the Holy Spirit. CCC: 2300 Most of us make sure that our relatives and friends have a proper funeral service (this mass is called the Mass of the Resurrection), but we also need to be aware of the needs of those who are grieving. Each person sets his or her own pace when grieving and the length of time is VERY individualized. I had the privilege, as a Lay Minister, to formulate and coordinate a Bereavement Ministry at my former Church. This was a truly humbling experience because, as anyone knows who has lost a loved one, each loss is unique and individual to each family member or friend of the deceased. People are different and people will grieve differently, but the majority will experience the following stages or phases of the grieving process expressed by Elisabeth Kübler-Ross: shock or disbelief; denial; anger; bargaining; guilt; depression; acceptance and hope. Grieving is one of the most exhausting and laborious experiences we will ever bear, but this is where this Corporal Work of Mercy comes in! The grieving process can be long and isolating, yet it is crucial and beneficial for the people who are grieving to accept support rather than grieve alone. We need to help one another, be that friend that keeps on visiting, helping them dry their tears, be that strong shoulder to lean on and that attentive ear to listen. Talking about grief is an essential part of healing. Receiving reassurance and feeling understood will help make the recovery process more complete during one of life's most challenging times.

Something VERY powerful about the Catholic Tradition is offering Masses for the eternal repose of souls. You just need to contact the office and request a Mass. From my experience it is most comforting to people; even my friends who are not Catholic are very appreciative when I have a Mass for one of their loved ones. The Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception have a very particular commitment to pray for the deceased, especially for the long forgotten, like the soldiers lost in the battle field or the victims of plagues. To achieve this, the Association of Marian Helpers holds these intentions in the minds, hearts, and spirits of all the Marian Fathers and the members of the Association of Marian Helpers – each one making the spiritual commitment to “bury the dead” with all confidence in God's promise of the Life of the World to Come. This is beautiful!

When we come to the Holy Eucharist, we are actually closer to the faithful departed than at any other time in our lives. After all, whether in purgatory or in heaven, they are in the nearer presence of Jesus Christ, Who is also uniquely present to us here on earth in the Blessed Sacrament. To be at “Holy Communion” with Him, therefore, is to be gathered up in a mysterious way into the whole “Communion of Saints” in this life and the life to come. Thus, we can make every Holy Eucharist a time of prayer for departed loved ones and encourage other to do the same. And THIS is SO amazingly beautiful!

I do hope that you've enjoyed reading more about the Corporal Works of Mercy and you may be thinking after reading about them, “It all sounds inspiring in principle, but what can I possibly do? I am already so weighed down with my own issues and responsibilities. I cannot possibly take on any more burdens, I can't possibly do all these things suggested! Of course, you can't! But perhaps just two or three, as you have the opportunity. AND the most important thing you can do is pray for those who are doing works of mercy!



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today, Jesus says to us: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments... Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father and I will love him and reveal myself to him."

**When we give to the poor, God indeed pours his love, peace and joy into our hearts, into our lives and through us into the hearts of those who are poor.**

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 MAY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"



Our Products of the Month for May are  
**Coffee (instant and ground—small containers only) and  
Coffee Creamer.**



### 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 or a sign-up sheet is available on the table in Shea Hall.



One item to note this year: the ballpark is a cashless venue. The parking lot, concession stands and Go-Teez Locker Room Team Store will accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express, apple Pay, and Google Pay only.

***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.***



To receive the bulletin as an e-mail attachment every week, simply send an e-mail with "E-Bulletin" in the subject line to  
**SFABulletin7717@gmail.com.**



**WES TEAM NEWS**

**Next Meeting**—July 20 at Noon in Shea Hall; All are welcome! Lunch will be served.

**Smokies Baseball Game w/Fireworks**

June 23, 7:00 PM; Buffet at 6:00 PM

See article in this bulletin. Sign-ups in Shea Hall.

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—5/7/2023**

5th Sunday of Easter—Attendance: 146

Sunday Offertory .....	\$ 4,292.00
Donation Box.....	0.00
Other Donations* .....	40.00
Total Donations for the Week.....	<u>\$ 4,332.00</u>

Year-to-Date Donations .....	\$ 157,949.83
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations .....	<u>159,120.45</u>
Year-to-Date Donation ** (Deficit) ....	<b>(\$ 1,170.62)</b>

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund .....	\$ 1,072.00
Parish Charity.....	30.00
Other .....	<u>0.00</u>
Total Non-Budget Donations .....	<u>\$ 1,102.00</u>

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

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

**WEEK 46—52 WAYS TO CARE FOR CREATION** from [laudatosimovement.org](http://laudatosimovement.org)

Ecological Virtue 2- Gratitude

It is only natural that we find praising God for his masterful and fully unknowable creation leads us to be filled with Gratitude for these wonders- a second ecological virtue. "We realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others" [LS 159]. David Liittschwager, an American photographer, once created an open metal cube one foot in each dimension, and left it to rest in various natural locations for 24 hour periods. He then analyzed the multitude of creatures moving throughout the cube in this time frame and, for example, found that one cubic foot of woodland earth contained tens of earthworms, thousands of insects, tens of thousands of nematodes and fungi, and millions of soil bacteria- all creating healthy conditions for plants and other animals (us) to function. To become ever grateful for this vast machinery of life is our goal. "First, it (our conversion) entails gratitude and gratuitousness, a recognition that the world is God's loving gift, and that we are called quietly to imitate his generosity in self-sacrifice and good works" [LS 220].

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](mailto:maryetank@hotmail.com)) or the OLOF Care for Creation Ministry, or [laudatosimovement.org](http://laudatosimovement.org).

**AN INSPIRATION FOR MAY 14 FROM "THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS"**

**Obedience:** *"He that is truly obedient does not wait for a command, but as soon as he knows what his superior wishes to have done immediately sets himself to work, without expecting and order."*

St. Albert the Great



## RECENT ACTIVITIES FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY



### *TES FINANCIAL BASICS CLASS*



Our St. Francis Conference of SVDP has held two fun activities with Townsend Elementary School. In April, SVDP member Bob Eberhardt put on a program for the 5th graders at TES. There were 19 students in attendance for this 40 minute presentation. All students were extremely attentive and participated as they learned about budgets, credit and debit cards, digital banking, etc. Each student received a piggy bank which they decorated and \$5 in bills and change to start their savings. This was written up in an article in the Daily News.



### *TCAP ICE CREAM SUNDAE CELEBRATION*

On May 10, a celebration was held for approximately 50 students that did well on their standardized TCAP testing and met their “stretch” goals. They were treated to a hayride through town, a bounce house at school and an ice cream bar. SVDP provided and scooped out ice cream for the students and then the students added their own syrup and toppings which included sprinkles, “mini” M&M’s, maraschino cherries and whipped cream. Again, fun was had by all—students and our SVDP members!



## CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

A second collection will be taken up on May 21 for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) in its work of evangelization. Working to keep the Gospel message in the world, CCC provides Catholic content for radio, the Internet, television, and print publications. CCC focuses on finding new ways to bring the Gospel message to you by working to be wherever the faithful and those seeking the faith are. CCC provides content the way you need it—on the Internet to strengthen marriage, in podcasts for daily readings, on television for Christmas Mass, and on Facebook for news, discussions, and sharing of the faith. Please be generous in the Collection and support this important work. Fifty percent of the funds collected will also assist the Diocese of Knoxville's Communications Office in our local projects.

## ONE HEART COLOMBIA MISSION

Father Antonio and 4 of our parishioners (Suzie Fay, Ilene Rainwater and Dan & Kathy Meyerkord) will be attending this year's Mission Trip in Marsella, Colombia.



During this trip, Mass and Prayer services will be as follows:

- Mon., Tues, Thurs. & Fri. 5/15, 5/16, 5/18 & 5/19: 8:30 am Prayer and Communion Services Sat. May 20— 4:00 pm Mass; Father Ray Powell
- Sun. May 21— 9:00 am Mass; Father Alex Hernandez
- Mon., Tues, Thurs. & Fri. 5/22, 5/23, 5/25 & 5/26: 8:30 am Prayer and Communion Services Sat. May 27— 4:00 pm Mass; Father Adam Royal
- Sun. May 28— 9:00 am Mass; Father Adam Royal
- Mon., Tues 5/29, 5/30: 8:30 am Prayer and Communion Services

**DIocese of Knoxville**

*Ordination Mass*  
at the Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

**Ordnation to the Transitional Diaconate**  
Saturday, June 3, 2023, 10am

A reception will follow both ordinations in the Cathedral Hall.

**Ordnation to the Priesthood**  
Saturday, June 10, 2023, 10am

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## A REFLECTION FOR MAY 14 FROM “THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN”

*“Joy is not the same as pleasure or happiness. A wicked and evil man may have pleasure, while any ordinary mortal is capable of being happy. Pleasure generally comes from things, and always through the senses; happiness comes from humans through fellowship. Joy comes from loving God and neighbor. Pleasure is quick and violent, like a flash of lightning. Joy is steady and abiding, like a fixed star. Pleasure depends on eternal circumstances, such as money, food, travel, etc. Joy is independent of them, for it comes from a good conscience and love of God.”*