



MAY 21, 2023 THE ASCENSION

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

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 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. 5/22 8:30 AM*
TUES. 5/23 8:30 AM*
WED. 5/24 NO MORNING MASS
THURS. 5/25 8:30 AM* Mark[†] & Barb Shaw
FRIDAY 5/26 8:30 AM*
SAT. 5/27 4:00 PM Raymond Nieman[†], Bernard Eberhardt[†], Emmett Eberhardt[†]
SUN. 5/28 9:00 AM Ella Harrell

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.

***COMMUNION/PRAYER SERVICE**



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 the One Heart Colombia Team for a safe mission given by Roger & Charlene Burrell.* 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: 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.



JUNE 3 & 4 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.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	5/22	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	5/23		
Wed	5/24		
Thu	5/25		
Fri	5/26		
Sat	5/27	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	5/28	9:00 AM	Mass

CATECHISM CORNER

Happy 7th Sunday of Easter St. Francis!! AND the Ascension of the Lord! Today we celebrate the elevation of Christ into heaven by His own power in the presence of His disciples on the fortieth day after His Resurrection. It is narrated in St. Mark, 16:19, St. Luke, 24:51, and in the of the Acts of the Apostles 1:9. Although the place of the Ascension is not distinctly stated, it would appear from the Acts of Apostles that it was Mount Olivet, since after the Ascension the disciples are described as returning to Jerusalem from the mount that is called Olivet. Tradition has consecrated this site as the Mount of Ascension and Christian piety has memorialized the event by erecting over the site a basilica!

At the climax of the forty days spent with the disciples after his resurrection, Jesus ascended bodily into heaven. Catholics have always understood this to be a literal, miraculous event. We believe it really happened—and as a Church we profess it every Sunday. But like anything within the Catholic Church, the dogma also has its detractors. Some have made a mockery of the doctrine, likening the “flying” Jesus to an Apollo spacecraft, as was a common jest among atheists in the 60s and 70s. Others deny the possibility of the miraculous altogether. Still others, like Episcopalian theologian John Shelby Spong, read the ascension as non-literal and symbolic (Sound familiar? Maybe, the same thought about the True Presence in the Eucharist??): “A modern person knows that if you rise up off the Earth (as in the ascension), you don’t go to heaven. You go into orbit.” We are told that heaven is supposed to be “beyond” the physical universe. It’s an interesting objection, one to which C.S. Lewis offered what I find to be a satisfying rebuttal:

“After his Resurrection, it may have been that Our Lord, a being still in some mode, though not our mode, corporeal, withdrew at His own will from the Nature presented by our three dimensions and five senses, not necessarily into the non-sensuous and undimensioned but possibly into, or through, a world or worlds of super-sense and super-space. And He might choose to do it gradually. Who on earth knows what the spectators might see? If they say they saw a momentary movement along the vertical plane – then an indistinct mass – then nothing – who is to pronounce this improbable?”

So, it may have been that Jesus, still in bodily form, chose to ascend not to the stars, but simply from the ground as the beginning of the super-physical journey to heaven. This still assumes, of course, that miracles are possible. But are they? (My opinion – YES!) Miracles are by definition supernatural events; and science only examines natural phenomena. To make a definitive claim about whether miracles can occur, one must look beyond the microscopes, rulers and dimension.

The Gospel of Luke and his Acts of the Apostles have been accredited by scholars of ancient history and archaeology as impressively accurate. So, when Luke describes Jesus’ bodily ascension into the heavens, we have many good reasons to believe that St. Luke was reporting real history, “a narrative of the things which have been accomplished . . . just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses” (Luke 1:1). I agree with St. Luke!

I don’t know about you, but this is deep, way deep to the point that my head hurts! I continue to reflect on the scripture passage from John 20:26-29 where Jesus says to Thomas in verse 29, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.” So, it comes down to what the scriptures and Tradition say and “Faith” – AMEN and AMEN!

See you next week – I hear we’re having a birthday party!!!

ONE HEART COLOMBIA MISSION TRIP

Father Antonio and 4 of our parishioners (Suzie Fay, Ilene Rainwater and Dan & Kathy Meyerkord) are continuing their Mission Trip in Marsella, Colombia.

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

- 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



Daniel Herman
St. Anthony of Padua
Mountain City



Michael Wiley
St. Therèse of Lisieux
Cleveland



Bo Beatty
St. Christopher
Jamestown

Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate
Saturday, June 3, 2023, 10am



Rev. Joseph Austin
St. Dominic
Kingsport, TN



Rev. Neil Blanchford
Cathedral of the Most Sacred
Heart of Jesus
Knoxville, TN



Rev. Andrew Crabtree
St. Mary
Athens, TN

Ordination to the Priesthood
Saturday, June 10, 2023, 10am

A reception will follow
both ordinations in the
Cathedral Hall.



OFFICE OF VOCATIONS • DIOKNOX.ORG/VOCATIONS • 865-584-3307

BISHOP'S APPEAL

for MINISTRIES

Building up the Church in East Tennessee

APRIL 2023

Collections Needed to Fulfill Commitments:
\$8,005

Total Committed: \$18,698
Collections to Date: \$10,693

You make ministries possible!

COME VISIT OUR CHURCH LIBRARY



Don't forget we have an extensive Church library which is located in the PRC building (AKA Church Office). It is open week-day mornings from 9 am until noon. An appointment can also be made by calling the church office. Please feel free to browse and take a book or books home to read. We have two full book-cases on many, many topics relating to the Catholic Church and Catholicism.

A REFLECTION FOR MAY 21 FROM "THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN"

"You think you are having a good time, but time really is the greatest obstacle in the world to happiness, not only because it makes you take pleasures successively, but also because you are never really happy until you are unconscious of the passing of time."



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today as we celebrate the feast of the Ascension we are reminded that Christ's saving work on earth continues through his disciples...and now through us.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can bring peace to those who are hungry.

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"



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.



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP
OPEN FOR BUSINESS
AFTER WEEKEND MASSES



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.

Pet Blessing—September 30, 11:00 AM

Fall Pot Luck-October 8, 4:00 PM

Christmas Party—December 10, 4:00 PM at the Barn Event Center

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—5/14/2023

6th Sunday of Easter—Attendance: 146

Sunday Offertory	\$ 1,866.00
Donation Box.....	40.00
Other Donations*.....	180.00
Total Donations for the Week.....	\$ 2,086.00

Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 160,035.83
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations	162,656.46
Year-to-Date Donation ** (Deficit)	(\$ 2,620.63)

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$ 115.00
Parish Charity.....	130.00
Other.....	0.00
Total Non-Budget Donations.....	\$ 245.00

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

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

WEEK 47—52 WAYS TO CARE FOR CREATION from laudatosimovement.org

Ecological Virtue 3- Care

In connection with the first and second ecological virtues, praise and gratitude, we find that the virtue of caring flows naturally from them- Care is the virtue we need most in order to take action and make change happen. This action can be internal as in educating ourselves and changing our own lifestyle and attitudes toward creation as a precious gift, and external as in speaking out and supporting groups organized for change. "Society is also enriched by a countless array of organizations which work to promote the common good and to defend the environment, In this way, the world, and the quality of life of the poorest, are cared for, with a sense of solidarity which is at the same time aware that we live in a common home which God has entrusted to us" [LS 232]. Why not consider supporting healthy ecological action groups such as The Nature Conservancy and/or spiritual action groups such as Catholic Relief Services in order to make a difference?

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.

AN INSPIRATION FOR MAY 21 FROM "THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS"

Our Crosses in Life: *"Christians must lean on the Cross of Christ just as travelers lean on a staff when they begin a long journey."* - St. Anthony of Padua