



MAY 7, 2023 5TH 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. 5/8 8:30 AM Clarence Keeven †
TUES. 5/9 8:30 AM Bill Mack †
WED. 5/10 **NO MORNING MASS**
THURS. 5/11 8:30 AM Cam King & Family
FRIDAY 5/12 8:30 AM Travis McBride †
SAT. 5/13 4:00 PM Cam King & Family
SUN. 5/14 9:00 AM Marian Mossner †

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

SANCTUARY CANDLE: *In Memory of James (Buddy) R. Farson, Jr. given by Particia Farson.* 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.



**ONE HEART COLOMBIA
THANKS YOU!**

With the help of our Parish, we sold all 55 bags of Vidalia onions. **PLUS** we had several generous parishioners and friends donate extra cash. We made a profit of almost \$850 from the sales and donations. This amounts to almost **25 food bags** being purchased by our parish.



ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	5/8	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	5/9		
Wed	5/10		
Thu	5/11		
Fri	5/12		
Sat	5/13	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	5/14	9:00 AM	Mass

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



PASTOR'S NOTES

Today's liturgy has far-reaching implications for the life of ministry within any parish. The readings are rooted in self-sacrificing love. All of our love is to flow from the example of Christ

As the Christian church grew, there was a need to adapt community mores to meet the needs of the newly formed community. There were Greek-speaking converts, Greek-speaking Jewish converts, and Jewish Hebrew-speaking converts – all of them Christian. The church had to adapt and adjust to the influx of new people. Enculturation was a problem for the Jews as well as the Christians. The Greek-speaking Christians felt that their widows were given less than their Jewish counterparts. To solve the problem the apostles invited the Hellenists (Greeks) to appoint seven of their own men to take on the task of waiting on the tables of the entire community. The apostles prayed and laid hands on them.

In today's second reading, St. Peter tells us that we are to be living stones, built into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices. The church building is a structure that, at its best and most profound, speaks of a greater reality: the mystery of Christ's eternal love, which is celebrated and shared within it. We who gather are living stones, drawn into union with Christ through the saving acts in which we participate here. The church building provides a place in which the church, the Body of Christ, may come together.

In today's gospel Jesus speaks of a different dwelling, the Father's house, in which there are many dwelling places, the abiding place of God heaven. But as hopeful as dwelling with God throughout eternity is, the disciples were confused. How can they go to an unknown place? How can they know the Father, whom they have not seen? We can almost hear the exasperation and the frustration in Jesus's voice as he expresses one of the great mysteries of our Christian faith. When we know Jesus, we know the Father. Where the Father is, so is the Lord. They dwell in perfect union with one another, and so, as people who have been drawn to Christ in baptism and are nourished in this union with the Eucharist, we too know and may call God our Father. This union is a deep mystery that is at the very heart of what it means to be a Christian.

It was not easy for early Christians to learn to form community with one another, nor is it easy for us today. We live in a culture that prizes the individual – me first, every person for him- or her-self. Yet, here, we are formed in a different way, Christ's way, the way of love. Sacrificial love. A love in which we know ourselves united to one another and to all humanity, charged with sharing in mission of Christ, to make God's love known through our works, words and actions. The sacrifices we make for the sake of others have spiritual meaning. When we sacrifice – sharing love, care, our lives, and resources – we give of ourselves in response to the one great sacrifice of love of Jesus, the crucified and risen Lord.

AN INSPIRATION FOR MAY 7 FROM "THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS"

Personal Development: *"Good, better, best. Never let it rest. 'til your good is better and your better is best.": - St. Jerome*

CATECHISM CORNER



Today is the Fifth Sunday of Easter! This Catechism Corner we will be focused on the Corporal Works of Mercy of: Visit those in prison and Comfort the Sick. Please note that by visiting those in prison I am not implying the phrase of: "being soft on crime." On the contrary, there are some crimes that their perpetrators must be completely and irrevocably quarantined, put behind bars for a long time or even for life for the protection of society and hopefully to deter other criminals. With some violent criminals, society has little choice but to "lock them up and throw away the key." Throw away the key, indeed – but not the *person*. Punishment deters and quarantines give the criminal the opportunity to do penance, but friendship and prayer have the capacity to reform and to heal. A true work of mercy is done by Christians who befriend those in correctional institutions in the name of Jesus Christ, thereby affirming their human dignity as persons made in God's image. A perfect example of prison ministry is Charles Colson, the former Watergate conspirator. Look him up – a pretty interesting story of his conversion.

The sixth Corporal Work of Mercy is to Comfort the Sick. To comfort the sick means, first of all, to comfort them with something they urgently need: namely, proper medical assistance. The Diocese of Knoxville has a mobile clinic called St. Mary's Legacy Mobile Clinic which serves rural East Tennessee communities. If you have a background in medicine, please think about volunteering for this wonderful and very much needed service right here in East Tennessee. Another way to serve God's people with the talent you have been given! Of course, there are some people who are "sick" not from physical illness but from social isolation. One thinks especially of the elderly in our communities who, whether at home or in long-term care facilities, live in geographical isolation from their loved ones. "Visiting the sick" in our world can mean reaching out to those in our local long-term care facilities who are "sick at heart" from being lonely and forgotten and who are regularly deprived of the basic human need called "friendship." The socially isolated elderly are usually not far away. They often live just around the corner from us, or they are members of our own parish. You could volunteer with the Meals-on-Wheels program and you will find them! Check with Father Antonio or Suzie Fay (our Pastoral Care group leader) if they know of anyone that needs visiting in the parish. Most of all, do not forget that some of them may even be members of your own family, relatives too much overlooked and too often forgotten.

Visiting the housebound elderly and the chronically and terminally ill is no easy task. Trying to do it on a regular basis can take us right out of our "comfort zones" because it confronts us with real human lives and the fragility of our humanity. But our mere presence, as someone willing to be a friend and a listening ear, can mean much more to them than we can imagine, and along the way they will be giving a precious gift to us as well: the gift of growth in the virtue of compassion and mercy is the fruit of compassion! We are blessed here at St. Francis because our Little Church on the River has a "sick and homebound" ministry – check it out!

Next week, St. Francis, we will concentrate on the Corporal Work of Mercy to Bury the Dead.

Keep those questions coming at jdewtn2018@att.net!



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today, Jesus says "...whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father.

Through your almsgiving you are performing a good work; far greater than you think. The coins placed in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box bring Christ love and compassion to the 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 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.



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—4/30/2023

4th Sunday of Easter—Attendance: 138

Sunday Offertory	\$ 3,148.00
Donation Box.....	0.00
Other Donations*	30.00
Total Donations for the Week.....	\$ 3,178.00

Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 153,617.83
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations	155,584.44
Year-to-Date Donation ** (Deficit)	(\$ 1,966.61)

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$ 25.00
Parish Charity.....	0.00
Catholic Home Missions.....	870.00
Total Non-Budget Donations	\$ 895.00

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

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

WEEK 45—52 WAYS TO CARE FOR CREATION from laudatosimovement.org

Ecological Virtue 1- Praise

Of all the ways to care for creation, starting with "praise" for the wonders, beauty, and complexities God designed out of His goodness is essential. It is the first and foremost of the seven Laudato Si ecological virtues, identified by Father Joshtrom Kureethadam of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. It is the theme of the magnificent Canticle of the Creatures [LS 87] written by Saint Francis of Assisi around 1224. Jesus himself praised His Father for the lilies of the field (Matthew 6). And it is the foundation upon which so many psalms rest: "Oh Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have wrought them all, the earth is full of your creatures." (Psalm 104: 24). Our intentional praise for God's works creates the needed mindset for prayer, awareness, and action against destruction of the environment. Starting each day with contemplation and praise will go a long way in setting us on a more sustainable path.

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.

A REFLECTION FOR MAY 7 FROM "THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN"

"Joy is the happiness of love-love aware of its own inner happiness. Pleasure comes from without, and joy comes from within, and it is, therefore, within reach of everyone in the world..."