



JUNE 25, 2023
12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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. 6/26 8:30 AM David Hogan †
TUES. 6/27 8:30 AM Brian Barker †
WED. 6/28 **NO MORNING MASS**
THURS. 6/29 8:30 AM Brian Barker †
FRIDAY 6/30 8:30 AM Brian Barker †
SAT. 7/1 4:00 PM Norman Berger †
SUN. 7/2 9:00 AM Chris Gibson †

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, Dan Hogan, Elise Martin, Paula Watson, Mike Lauer, Tom Beasley

SANCTUARY CANDLE: 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.



THANK YOU TO DAVE GIRARD & HIS TEAM



A special thank you to the team that refinished the outdoor Stations of the Cross. They were re-roofed, painted and remounted to the posts. They look beautiful now and really enhance our riverfront. Dave has been managing the church facilities for a year and a half and has allowed us to get many projects completed in order to maintain the parish buildings and property.

Please thank him when you see him.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon 6/26 9:00 AM Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue 6/27
Wed 6/28
Thu 6/29
Fri 6/30
Sat 7/1 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
Sun 7/2 9:00 AM Mass



PASTOR'S NOTES

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

600 years before Christ, Jeremiah was warning God's people that they could avoid the destruction that was on its way if they started living according to God's laws (most of which were being fragrantly ignored or violated). The people didn't like the message, so they decided to kill Jeremiah. His words in today's first reading reflect the pain and misery he experienced for being faithful to his mission. We should be shocked when we

hear him pray that God take vengeance of his persecutors. After all, he was human and not as perfect as Jesus who was able to pray for those who crucified him.

Our First reading leads into the gospel. As we heard last Sunday, Jesus had just chosen his twelve apostles. In today's gospel he prepares to send them out as missionaries. He is warning them their message is not always well received, they may even suffer and die for it, but they must preach with courage and not be afraid of what might happen to them if they meet rejection.

As Christians we, too, can feel the anxiety of Jeremiah. We live in a society where many people feel that God simply does not matter to them. Instead of being confined to a temple, as in Jeremiah's time, God is confined to the realm of personal sentiment. When we as Christians try to speak on matters involving social justice and public policies, we can always be met with hostility. We are often told that faith has no place in the public square. Yet, as Christians we all share a common vocation to reconcile all things with God. Now, how are we able to do this? Is there a clear path forward? The path forward for us Christians is the Gospel.

Jesus tells his disciples and us today "Be not afraid". Although he is aware, and cares, he does not guarantee us that bad things will not happen to us. Ups and downs are part of our existence and they even happen to God's holy prophets and to Jesus himself. Because God is aware and he cares he tells us not to fear, for he is in control and will make everything turn right for those who are faithful to him. When Jesus tells us not to fear, he's not talking about the spontaneous reaction we feel when we are threatened, he's telling us not to worry and to put our trust in him that things will come out alright in the end. One thing Jesus tells us to fear is God! "Do not be afraid of those who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both body and soul in Gehenna." Those who fear God in this way will approach him with awe, respect, and reverence frequently. In either case, a little healthy fear of God will greatly reduce our fear of other things life, including death itself. If we are in peace with God and know the Lord is with us, there will be fewer things in life that can upset us or frighten us.

AN INSPIRATION FOR JUNE 25 FROM "THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS"

Forgiveness: *"Not the power to remember, but its very opposite, the power to forget, is a necessary condition for our existence." - St. Basil the Great*

A REFLECTION FOR JUNE 25 FROM "THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN"

"A contented man is never [really] poor though he may have very, very little."

CATECHISM CORNER

Welcome to the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time! In this Corner we will concentrate on the Spiritual Work of Mercy to "Pray for the Living and the Dead." Prayer is one of the most **powerful** ways we can support others. Joining together in prayer for the living and the dead entrusts us all into God's care. Some good ideas to practice this Spiritual Work may include: requesting a mass intention for a friend or family member who has died or who is going through a tough time. Ask a friend or family member if there is anything you can pray for them about and keep your own book of prayer intentions, writing down the names of those who asked you to pray for them.

While "praying for the living" is a practice accepted by almost all Christians, the modern world is constantly telling us to feed our own appetites before even thinking about other people. Unknowingly, we revert to a "me" centered prayer life. We ask, and ask, and ask, and ask and get annoyed with God when He does not give us what we want. As the Venerable Fulton Sheen says: "You cannot always depend on prayers to be answered the way you want them answered but you can always depend on God. God, the loving Father often denies us those things which in the end would prove harmful to us." While it is appropriate to ask God for what we desire in life, that should not be the center of our prayer life. (Reminds me of the song by Garth Brooks: Unanswered Prayers!) This is very similar to how we teach children to not seek only what they want. For those who are parents, you know firsthand that children tend to want everything and they want it now. It is only through years of teaching and example that children learn that they are not the center of the universe. They can't always have what they want because someone else would benefit much more. That is why we must cultivate praying for others. This will help us acquire the virtue of charity and combat the sins of pride and greed. If we think and pray more about others, we will have a very fruitful prayer life that imitates the love and care that God has for us! However, we must realize that praying for others does not stop once they are buried in a cemetery. The dead need our prayers as we do not know their final destination. Most likely they are in purgatory (we have no way of knowing) and our prayers do help them draw closer to Heaven. (I had a very in-depth Catechism Corner about Purgatory a while back! If you want to see it again, here, just let me know!) This practice is as ancient as the Jewish people and can be found in the Old Testament book: Second Maccabees 12:39-46. The need for atonement for sins after death is again revisited in the Gospels and in the letters of the New Testament. In the Gospels Jesus makes a reference to Purgatory. Please read: Matthew 5:25-26; and the most obvious text in the New Testament comes from St. Paul in his First letter to the Corinthians 3:11-15. We are asked to pray for our deceased family and friends in a similar way that we are asked to pray for the living. Both the living and the dead (those in Purgatory) suffer trials and both are in need of prayers to help alleviate the time and pain endured.

One particular custom that needs to be revived is the practice of visiting the graves of relatives. This is a great tradition to do each November as it is the Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The most appropriate day to do this would be on November 2nd, the memorial day of All Souls, but really any day in November would do, actually ANY day of the year would serve. I know when I go to Michigan, where all my relatives are buried, I visit their graves as soon as I can. Not only am I praying for them, but it is also extremely comforting for me!

Praying for the dead is also a great work of mercy that helps shape our own souls. It reminds us of our mortality and the fact that we must work hard for our own salvation on earth. Whenever we pray for the dead, we should always seek to examine our own lives and contemplate the state of our soul.

Next week: Bear Wrongs Patiently. Have a grace filled week St. Francis!

ONE HEART COLOMBIA MISSION TRIP



The One Heart Colombia Mission (501c3 Non-Profit) would like to thank the St. Francis of Assisi Parishioners who have provided financial support for our recent Mission to Marsella, Colombia, South America which took place May 18 – 30, 2023. This is the 1st time we have been able to take a Mission Group since June 2019 due to COVID restrictions. As a result, our Spiritual Director, Fr. Antonio Giraldo, chose to take a small group of only 8 members for logistic reasons.

On this 2023 Mission, our itinerary was full. We walked the roads of Marsella daily doing home visits and praying with these families in their homes. Thanks to many donors, we were able to hand out Rosaries, beautiful Prayer Cards, and a variety of Religious Medals to each home we visited. Another powerful part of the Mission responsibilities was attending Daily Mass with the local people at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in the heart of Marsella. Our Vacation Bible School Theme was “The Annunciation of Angel Gabriel to our Blessed Mother”, which was attended by about 200 children, including the 41 sponsored children. We were also able to purchase and hand out 265 Food Bags which would last each family about a month. These were given to the families of the children attending the Vacation Bible School along with supplying the local nursing home pantry and feeding several other poor and elderly families throughout Marsella.

Respectfully,

Spiritual Director -Fr. Antonio; Board Members: Annette Govero– President, Sharon Prohaska – VP, Vivian Brocato – Secretary, Connie Reed - Treasurer; St. Francis Parishioners: Ilene Rainwater, Dan & Kathy Meyerkord, & Suzie Fay



When we arrived, we were entertained at the Mission House by the local youth.



Each family received a 40-pound bag of food, a bag of potatoes, 2 dozen eggs and a box of crackers.



Our Mission Team worked together with local One Heart Colombia Catechists to distribute the food bags and to put on the Vacation Bible School.



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL—ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CONFERENCE

How much do you know about our St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Conference here at SFA? Hopefully you read the “Bulletin Briefs” included in this bulletin each week and other articles on our various activities. But how much do you really know? We invite you to attend one of our meetings to find out more about us. Our next meeting will be July 19 at 5 pm in the PRC.

SVDP is one of the largest charitable organizations in the world and serves the needy and suffering in 153 countries on five continents. The SVDP Conference at St. Francis of Assisi was founded in 2013 and serves the needy in Townsend and surrounding areas. We serve the area by operating a Food Pantry, providing seasonal help and outreach at Easter, Christmas and Thanksgiving, and helping to fill financial gaps to those who have nowhere to turn. There is a profound need for assistance in the Townsend area and the SFA Conference strives to meet the temporal and spiritual needs of those in the community. There are no special skills required, just a desire to help those in need. We hope to see you July 19th.

PARISH SUPPLY WISH LIST

We had many generous donations of office/church supplies and cash when we published this list last year. **Thank you** to all who gave their support. Since we are about to start into a new budget year, we would once again like to ask for donations of supplies or cash to apply to the purchase of supplies. We will keep the list updated as we fulfill our requirements for the year and as we add new items.

Office/Church Supplies

8 1/2 x 14 Paper— White, 24#, 98 Bright
8 1/2 x 11 Paper—White
Postage – Forever stamps
Printer Cartridges: Lexmark 74C1SY0
(Yellow), 74X1SC0 (Cyan), 74C1SM0
(Magenta), & 74C1SK0 (Black); HP 134A
Black Toner

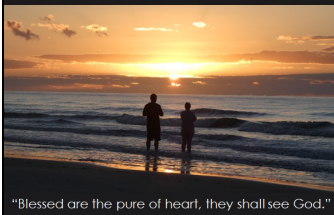
Supplies (Cont.)

Post-its , (1 1/2” x 2” or 3:x3”); Multi-colored)

Monetary Donations Towards:

Utilities—Propane, Electric, Water
Candle Oil
Sanctuary Candles
Grounds Maintenance

Living the Beatitudes Retreat



“Blessed are the pure of heart, they shall see God.”

In his sermon on the mount, Jesus outlined the secret to true happiness in eight simple yet paradoxical blessings, or beatitudes. Deepen your appreciation of this divine wisdom and learn how to make these beatitudes a part of your daily life.

The retreat is August 25-27 at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, NC. There'll be a mix of thoughtful presentations and practical applications, plus time for Adoration, confession, spiritual direction, and more...

Visit www.catholicconference.org/beatitude, email info@catholicconference.org, or call 828.327.7441. Register before July 31 and receive a \$50 Early Bird discount!



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today, we hear Jesus say: "Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father."

This week, know that you will be bringing hope to the poor by your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

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 JUNE "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"



Our Products of the Month for June are
Laundry Detergent (smaller bottles) and Fabric Softener Sheets



It is plainly evident that there is no one in the world who will not receive all kinds of heavenly blessings if they have a true love of Jesus Christ manifested by a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

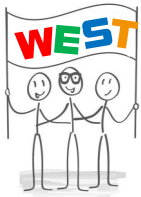
—St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

A second collection will be taken up on July 1 & 2 in support of "Peter's Pence" that assists the Holy Father with his charitable works. Your donations help the Holy Father to respond with emergency financial assistance to the neediest and most disadvantaged throughout the world—especially those who suffer as a result of war, oppression, and natural disasters. Your contributions will be combined with those of Catholics from around the world to help the Holy Father reach out to the voiceless and most vulnerable in need.



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP
OPEN FOR BUSINESS
AFTER WEEKEND MASSES



WES TEAM NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

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

We are trying to get some new ideas and some additional help for the WES Team. We encourage those of you with the time to help to attend our next meeting!

Pet Blessing—September 30, 11:00 AM

Fall Pot Luck—October 8, 4:00 PM

Christmas Party—December 10, 4:00 PM at

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—6/18/2023

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Attendance: 214

Sunday Offertory	\$ 1,696.00
Donation Box.....	58.00
Other Donations*	110.00
Total Donations for the Week.....	\$ 1,864.00

Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 175,869.83
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations	180,336.51
Year-to-Date Donation ** (Deficit)	(\$ 4,466.68)

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$ 35.00
Parish Charity.....	0.00
Other	0.00
Total Non-Budget Donations	\$ 35.00

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

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

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

In this, our last week of the “52 Ways to Care for Creation”, we can look once again at the wisdom of Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si* encyclical as guidance for our thoughts and actions. “*LAUDATO SI’, mi’ Signore*” – “*Praise be to you, my Lord*”. In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us” [LS 1]. “This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her” [LS 2]. And so, remarkably, “faced as we are with global environmental deterioration, I wish to address every person living on this planet” [LS 3]. We are all called to awareness and action- remember, John the Baptist was considered radical when he shook people out of complacency to prepare the way for Jesus’ coming! Now, briefly, what can we do? Each of us cannot do everything, but all of us can do some things. We can consume and waste less, recycle and compost more, drive less, educate ourselves and speak out more, turn our yards into wildlife and native plant refuges, shop local, reduce and refuse plastics, and so importantly (especially for our youth), spend time in God’s creation with praise, care, and humility. Watch The Letter, Pope Francis’s environmental documentary. Consider signing up for an Action Plan on the Laudato Si Action Platform website. All of these done in humility, are our ecological conversions. “It is my hope that this Encyclical Letter, which is now added to the body of the Church’s social teaching, can help us to acknowledge the appeal, immensity and urgency of the challenge we face” [LS 15]. And finally and beautifully, “Mary, the Mother who cared for Jesus, now cares with maternal affection and pain for this wounded world She treasures the entire life of Jesus in her heart... and now understands the meaning of all things. Hence, we can ask her to enable us to look at this world with eyes of wisdom” [LS 241]. Thank you for reading, and God bless you and your efforts!

For more information contact Mary Tankersley (maryetank@hotmail.com) or the OLOF Care for Creation ministry, or see laudatosimovement.org.