



JULY 2, 2023
13TH 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.	7/3	8:30 AM	
TUES.	7/4	8:30 AM	
WED.	7/5		NO MORNING MASS
THURS.	7/6	8:30 AM	Brian Barker †
FRIDAY	7/7	8:30 AM	Marion Ganley †
SAT.	7/8	4:00 PM	Kathy & Jim Davis
SUN.	7/9	9:00 AM	James† & Rebecca† Kemp

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: *For the Health of a Friend given by Michael & Julie 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. *Beginning July 1st, the cost will increase to \$15.00 for 1 week.*



SANCTUARY FLOWERS: *In Memory of Cecilia Petroskey 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, July 7

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

If you are interested in committing to a Holy Hour for First Friday Eucharistic Adoration, please contact Jackie Wagner at 330-807-8663.



ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	7/3	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	7/4		OFFICE CLOSED
Wed	7/5		
Thu	7/6		
Fri	7/7	9:00 AM	Adoration
Sat	7/8	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	7/9	9:00 AM	Mass



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel hear Jesus tell us: "Whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple—Amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward."

This week, know that you will 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 JULY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"



Thanks for all the Laundry Detergent and Fabric Softener Sheets in June. Our Products of the Month for July are

Dish Soap and Toothpaste



AN INSPIRATION FOR JULY 2 FROM "THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS"

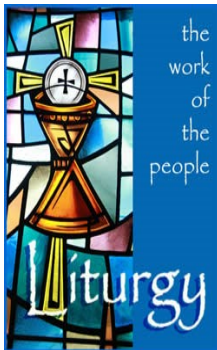
Love: *"We find rest in those we love, and provide a resting place to those who love us."*

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

A REFLECTION FOR JULY 2 FROM "THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN"

"We always make the fatal mistake of thinking that it is what we do that matters, when really what matters is what we let God do to us. "Contemplation must not be lived as a form of self-absorption; it must enlarge your heart to embrace all humanity, especially those who suffer.."

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES QUARTERLY SIGN-UPS FOR AUGUST, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER



It is time for Liturgical Ministries signup! The signup sheets will be on the counter in Shea Hall starting **next weekend**. Please bring your schedules/calendars and be ready to sign up for your ministry/ministries next weekend.

If you would like more information about our Liturgical Ministries, please check out our website, the bulletin board in Shea Hall or contact one of our ministry heads:

Lectors	Martha Frink	865-556-4684	marthafrink00@gmail.com
EMHC*	Karen Messenger	225-572-9400	komessenger@gmail.com
Ushers	Paul Czerniewski	847-877-7347	paul.czerniewski@gmail.com
Sacristans	Kathy Meyerkord	630-698-5563	kmmeyerkord@gmail.com
Altar Servers	Dan Meyerkord	708-846-4144	dkam27@sbcglobal.net

* Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion



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 the Barn Event Center

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—6/25/2023

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Attendance: 177

Sunday Offertory	\$ 2,684.00
Donation Box.....	30.00
Other Donations*	170.00
Total Donations for the Week.....	\$ 2,884.00

Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 178,753.83
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations	183,872.52
Year-to-Date Donation ** (Deficit)	(\$ 5,118.69)

Other Donations Not in Budget

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

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

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



JULY 8 & 9 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.

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS PILGRIMAGE



The Diocese of Knoxville is ready to roll to Indianapolis for the **10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis July 17-21, 2024**. An overview and details are posted on the bulletin board in Shea Hall. These details can also be found at Dioknox.org/Revival, by email at Revival@Dioknox.org, or by phone at 423-596-0181.

The pricing ranges from \$541-\$1,098 per pilgrim, depending on the occupancy of the room. This includes 4 night hotel accommodations and admission to all events and speakers.





PASTOR'S NOTES

13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Last Sunday, Matthew's gospel was talking about the persecutions Christians have to endure in order to follow Christ. This Sunday, he is telling us about one idea that would seem contradictory in our family relationships. This is one of the most surprising and disappointing passages in Matthew's gospel. Jesus is trying to explain to his disciples the contradiction that his message provokes. Jesus tells that among the many that reject God, Jesus, and his church, could be members of our own families. (I come from a

Catholic family, but when I took the decision to go to the seminary some of my siblings thought I was sick).

In fact, when faith is lived by all in the family, it becomes the fount of unity, peace, harmony, and love. But it also can be the source of contradiction, division, opposition, and even persecution.

Jesus clearly says: "My mother and my brothers are those who listen to the Word of God, and act on it." It means that God's words unite us as brothers and sisters, but those who resist following his words divide themselves from those who follow him.

"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me": With these words Jesus indicates that love of God must be above all creatures... even our beloved ones. We must love God more than our parents, our children, and ourselves.

It doesn't mean we must not love our families. It would be contrary to God's law. But this is what the first Commandment calls us for: "Love God above all things." However, God wants us to love our families as he loves us.

Jesus goes even further: "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Why do we find this phrase contradictory? Because we miss the real meaning of life, let us remember that true life is life eternal; life after this passing, short, ephemeral life we live in this earth. Therefore, when Jesus says: "Whoever finds his life will lose it." He refers to whatever we think is most important in this passing life on earth. That includes attachment to creatures, things, money, ideas, etc. Is this an easy task to do? No, it takes sacrifices and denials. That is why Jesus is talking about "taking your cross and follow him." And that cross means death.

That death, to which St. Paul refers in the letter to the Romans, is not necessarily physical death. It is death to sin, to our own self, to our desires, to our inclinations.

This is what holiness is all about: it consists of the continuous dying to oneself to allow God to live in us. To do God's will, not ours.

Today's first reading from the Book of Kings give us a beautiful example of dependence on God's will. The infertile couple who took care of Elisha seemed to accept their situation. As a result, through the prophet Elisha, God sent them a great gift, a child.

If we realize that God's plan for us is the perfect one to make us holy, it would be easier for us to grasp and to put into practice all the things that the Lord demands of us in today's liturgy. Let us remember and reflect on them, asking the Lord for the grace to act on them: "lose life" ... "die to sin" ... "take your cross" ... "die with Jesus" ... "love God above all things" ... God bless you.

CATECHISM CORNER

Happy 4th of July weekend St. Francis! Here's a little tidbit: The 4th of July celebrates the passage of the Declaration of Independence. The American colonies wanted their freedom from Great Britain and, on July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted for that independence. The vote passed, but it wasn't until two days later, on the 4th of July, that the Declaration of Independence was revised and signed. I'm sure we all know this because we had American History in school!

Today's Spiritual Work of Mercy is "Bear Wrongs Patiently." This Spiritual work of mercy is one that is simple in theory, but difficult in practice. We all know how to be charitable and patient to those who are pleasant, kind and humble. However, our initial reaction is not "patience" when someone cuts in line in front of us after waiting for an hour.

Jesus had much to say in regards to this spiritual work of mercy in the Gospel of Matthew 5:38-41. He said, "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'" But I say to you, do not resist one who is evil. But if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; and if any one would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well; and if any one forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles." Jesus' instruction to "turn the other cheek" is radically different than what the world (and our own sinful hearts) want to do. In our own minds, we believe we are "justified" in slapping someone back or regaining our spot in line. We say to ourselves "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth!"

What is even more controversial is what Jesus said further in this Chapter of Matthew verses 43-48: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." While in a certain sense "justice" appears to say that we should return evil for evil, God does not want us to base our actions on what the world says. He desires that we be "perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." This means that we need to battle our inner tendencies and not "fight fire with fire," but seek the "high road" that leads to salvation. From a "human" point of view, we often think that "revenge" will solve our problems. What we fail to realize is that in the spiritual world we cannot "fight fire with fire" or try to defeat "darkness with darkness." In the same way that water extinguishes a raging fire, only humility, patience and mercy can destroy the effects of sin. This work of mercy is "spiritual" for a reason; it requires **divine grace** to be successful.

"Bearing wrongs patiently" is not easy. You could say that it is not even "human" to do so. It goes against every fiber of our fallen nature. That is why when someone hurts us, we must not act as a "human," but follow the example of God incarnate. This spiritual work of mercy received its purest expression in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Let us ask Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, who gave us great examples on how to perform this work of mercy, to pray for us.

Have a wonderful, fun-filled and safe week! Next week we will visit the Spiritual Work of "Forgive Offenses/Injuries."