



JULY 16, 2023
15TH 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. 7/17 8:30 AM Bruce Haverkos
TUES. 7/18 8:30 AM Brian Barker[†]
WED. 7/19 **NO MORNING MASS**
THURS. 7/20 8:30 AM Poor Souls in Purgatory
FRIDAY 7/21 8:30 AM Poor Souls in Purgatory
SAT. 7/22 4:00 PM Brian Barker[†]
SUN. 7/23 9:00 AM Cecilia Petroskey[†]

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, Jennifer Reed, Dan Hogan, Elise Martin, Paula Watson, Mike Lauer, Tom Beasley, Julie Schirack, Donna Ashley, Savannah Bishop, Pat von Ryan, Kathy Davis, Bruce Haverkos

SANCTUARY CANDLE: *For Healing of all SFA Parishioners given by Ilene Rainwater*

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 \$15 for 1 week.



SANCTUARY FLOWERS: *In Memory of Helen & Patricia Andrews 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.



2ND COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN AFRICA

A second collection will be taken up on July 22 & 23 in support of the Pastoral Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa. This collection supports a wide range of essential and unique pastoral projects that build the capacity of the rapidly growing Church in Africa, so rich with faith, hope, and immense need. The Solidarity Fund supports essential pastoral projects that include outreach programs, schools, evangelization, and education of clergy and lay ministers. Mindful of the priests and religious from Africa who assist us so unselfishly here in the Diocese of Knoxville, please show your appreciation with your generous support of this appeal for the Church in Africa.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	7/17	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	7/18		
Wed	7/19		
Thu	7/20	Noon	WES Team Meeting
Fri	7/21		
Sat	7/22	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	7/23	9:00 AM	Mass



15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Today's first reading proclaims the effectiveness of God's word. Paul reminds us that the suffering of this life is nothing when compared to the joy of the resurrection. The gospel describes the conditions necessary for the word to take root in those who want to be disciples.

The prophet Isaiah in today's first reading speaks of that day in which rich fare and flowing water will be lavishly poured out on God's people. In Isaiah, God's word is not static, but living; it causes action. God's word will accomplish what God intends. God is addressing the exiled Israelites. The exiles are the earth and God's word is the water and snow. God's word, like water, causes life, is effective, and achieves its purpose. God's word invites a return to covenant living. There is a purpose to God's word going forth on the earth.

Paul also hints of harvest when he refers to the first fruits of the Spirit. The Spirit affects the harvest of faith in believers. The Spirit dwells within God's children and intercedes on their behalf when they do not know how to pray, even though they are unaware of it. There is so much more that awaits the believer. That is why the present suffering pales when we consider the incredible joy that awaits us when our bodies are resurrected with Christ and we share in his glory in the next age. All creation will share in this glory. Paul, prophet of hope, encourages the eager expectation of the glory that is to come, and will not fail to come.

Jesus' message for us in today's parable is to know first that the kingdom of heaven is not an entitlement (as a lot of people these days assume it is). Just because the seed of grace has been planted in our hearts, if we do nothing with it, it will die. If it lives in us, it will grow. We know that some of the growth, such as growing physically, just happens automatically as we grow older. Other kinds of growth require intentional effort on our part – such as growing in enough knowledge to get a degree or growing in certain skills, like athletic, artistic, etc.

Growing in God's grace is like this second kind of growth. It is intentional on our part. It is not accidental. It involves making a choice that Jesus is more important to us than anything or anyone else. It also involves patience as we wait for the fullness of the kingdom. Just as God has given us the sun and the rain to make the seed grow, if we put forth the effort spiritually, God will supply the means necessary to produce an extraordinarily abundant harvest in our lives. Investing our lives in him will give us a fantastic return on our investment (30-, 60- or 100-fold).

AN INSPIRATION FOR JULY 16 FROM "THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS"

Study: *"Let devotion accompany all your studies, and study less to make yourself learned than to become a saint. Consult God more than your books, and ask Him, with humility, to make you understand what you read."* - St. Vincent Ferrer

CATECHISM CORNER

Good and blessed Sunday, St. Francis of Assisi Parishioners! Today we will be “talking” about the last Spiritual Work of Mercy to Comfort the Sorrowful! The Spiritual work of mercy to “Comfort the Sorrowful” is also known as to “Comfort the Afflicted.” Sorrow is mental suffering when there is grief, sadness, or mourning. It is deepest and most painful at the death of a loved one. Sorrow can also come as the result of innumerable other things: betrayal by a friend, the end of a valued relationship, unfair treatment, feeling alone, a disappointment or a failure, something regrettable that we have done, something mean or evil that has been done to us, a disability, or a very concerning medical diagnosis – just to name a few.

When it comes to comforting the sorrowful, we only need to look to Jesus because Jesus truly has a compassionate heart. Jesus conducted a ministry of presence with those who were grieving a death. He went to be with mourners. When the widow of Nain lost her only son, he went to her and “he was moved with pity for her” (Lk 7:13). When the daughter of Jairus died, Jesus went to the home of her parents who were weeping and mourning (Lk 8:51). When Martha and Mary lost their brother, Lazarus, Jesus went to Bethany to be with them, and he wept with them (Jn 11:35).

Jesus comforted countless others who were sorrowful. When he encountered a dejected woman who had been crippled for 18 years, he comforted her, saying, “You are free of your infirmity” (Lk 13:12); when the criminal pleaded for mercy, Jesus comforted him saying, “Today you will be with me in paradise” (Lk 23:43); and when the disciples were embarrassed about abandoning their master, Jesus comforted them saying, “Peace be with you” (Lk 24:36). The role of comforter belongs not only to Jesus, but also to the entire Trinity. God says, “I will console and gladden them after their sorrows” (Jeremiah 31:13b). The Holy Spirit is the comforter (Acts 9:31), the one who brings the divine gifts of consolation and peace.

God asks us to be angels of mercy who bring comfort to the sorrowful. When there has been a death, consolation is extended through personal presence. Go in person. Attend the wake or the funeral. Visit their home. Offer a kind word, but be careful about what is said. While people have the best intentions, I have heard people say some dreadful things personally! Sometimes, it is better to say nothing at all. Or speak with gestures: a smile, a hug. Or give simple, sincere encouragement (depending on the situation): “I’m sorry.” “I love you.” “I’m praying for you.”

People are sorrowful for many reasons, and we can be angels of consolation by just listening. A comforter is totally present mentally and focuses completely on another’s troubles. It is best not to interrupt or change the subject. Ask follow-up questions. Take time. Be patient. Treat them with reverence. I do believe that being a good shoulder is the best “presence” we can be to someone.

Comfort can be extended in multiple other ways too: a card, a phone call, an email, flowers, a little gift, a home-cooked meal, help on a task, companionship, or a prayer on their behalf. We are the face, the voice and the love of God when we comfort the sorrowful.

A very good example is St. Faustina. In her religious community, she was apparently such a good listener she earned the nickname “the dump” from her fellow sisters because they were always dumping their problems on her (See her Diary, 871). If you read from the Diary of St. Faustina, it’s not hard to discover that she learned the art of listening from the Holy Spirit in prayer and from her spiritual directors. St. Faustina – pray for us! Have a most blessed week St. Francis!



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel, we hear the story of the sower and we know that "some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirty fold."

This week by putting a gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, know that together they will produce fruit a hundred fold.

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"

Our Products of the Month for July are
Dish Soap and Toothpaste



Light of the World
PARISH RETREAT

LIGHT OF THE WORLD RETREAT

What is the purpose of your life? Ever wonder what you are living your life for? What gives your life meaning and purpose? Can you really know God's plan for your life? These are the question of our hearts and souls, and the Light of the World Retreat seeks to answer them.

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church will be facilitating this retreat on August 22 & 23 from 8 am—5 pm each day. This retreat is free with all meals provided. Registration is limited to the first 40 people with the deadline of July 31 for registration. Further information and a registration form are posted on the bulletin board in Shea Hall.



WES TEAM MEETING THURSDAY, JULY 20, NOON

Please plan on attending! As always, lunch will be served.
Topics to be discussed:

- Upcoming events: Pet Blessing, Fall Potluck, Christmas Party
- Updated membership list
- Updated pictorial directory
- Suggestions for other activities



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

John 6: 56-57

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life. and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.



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—7/9/2023

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Attendance: 201

Sunday Offertory	\$ 4,768.00
Donation Box.....	0.00
Other Donations*	357.00
Total Donations for the Week.....	\$ 5,125.00
Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 8,911.50
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations	7,303.52
Year-to-Date Donation ** Surplus	\$ 1,607.98

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$ 755.00
Parish Charity	515.00
Peter's Pence Collection	25.00
Total Non-Budget Donations	\$ 1,295.00

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

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

A REFLECTION FOR JULY 16 FROM “THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN”

“Most commit the same mistake with God that they do with their friends: they do all the talking.”

A VISIT FROM THE FEDERATION OF NORTH AMERICAN EXPLORERS

Last Saturday, we were visited at Mass by a group of girls from the Federation of North-American Explorers (FNE). FNE is an international association in the Catholic Church for youth and young adults that builds its members into saints through an adventurous outdoors program. You can get more information about the organization at: FNEExplorers.com. They camped at Cades Cove for this retreat and got to do fun activities like horseback riding and hiking. Friday evening David and Susan Quinn visited their campsite and David presented a catechesis centered around their retreat theme: Jesus, Teach Us To Be Generous. The 9 girls in the younger group (8-11 year olds) and their leaders attended Saturday evening mass. The Parish provided each girl with a special rosary which Father Antonio blessed for them.

