



JULY 9, 2023
14TH 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. 7/10 8:30 AM
TUES. 7/11 8:30 AM Marion Ganley[†]
WED. 7/12 **NO MORNING MASS**
THURS. 7/13 8:30 AM
FRIDAY 7/14 8:30 AM
SAT. 7/15 4:00 PM Rev. Richard Stika
SUN. 7/16 9:00 AM Joseph Angle[†]

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

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.



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	7/10	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	7/11		
Wed	7/12		
Thu	7/13		
Fri	7/14		
Sat	7/15	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	7/16	9:00 AM	Mass



14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Three hundred years is a long time. In our nation, three hundred years would take us back to before George Washington was born and long before our Declaration of Independence.

In today's first reading we hear from Zechariah the prophet. For those who first heard Zechariah's words, there would have been the realization that it had been three hundred years that their country had a king and had known independence. They could recall their sad history that three hundred years earlier their homes and lands, their city and their Temple had been destroyed, and they were exiled to Babylon and became Babylonian slaves. So, when the prophet Zechariah tells the people, "Rejoice" many of them probably thought he was sick. But God's prophet has reason to be full of joy. The role of a prophet is to see clearly what others cannot see. He could see that one day they would have their own king, a king that would bring peace. That is the symbol of the donkey in the first reading. Horses were weapons of war, used by warriors and conquerors. The people of Jerusalem remembered this prophecy when Jesus came riding into Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday. We already passed Palm Sunday. But we hear in today's gospel that Jesus reveals himself as a man of peace who is meek and humble of heart. That's why the passage from Zechariah was chosen for our first reading.

Yokes were very common up to a few hundred years ago. It would join two animals together so their combined strength could pull a plow or wagon. Now we have trucks and tractors. The word yoke also had a symbolic meaning. It symbolized slavery and servitude.

At the time of Jesus, the Jewish Law sometimes was referred to as a yoke, a burden to be endured. The way the Scribes and Pharisees interpreted God's Law certainly proved to be a burden on God's people. When Jesus said, "take my yoke upon you and learn from me," he was contrasting his way, his teachings to the Jewish leaders' incorrect and burdensome interpretation of God's Law people would hear weekly in their synagogues. The spirit behind Jesus' teachings would lift their burdens and be refreshing. "Come to me all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."

This past week we celebrated Independence Day, but there's no independence from God. We treasure our freedom in this country, but if we think freedom is doing anything we want, we won't have any freedom at all. In our own lives we need to keep going in the right direction. God's way is not to limit our freedom as sometimes people think, but to guide us to peace and happiness. When we ignore and violate his law (which is a sin) we become a slave to our own worst selves.

When Jesus said, "come to me... take my yoke upon you," he is offering to be our partner in bearing our burdens. He is telling us we won't go through life alone. He promised at the Last Supper, he would not leave us orphans (John 14,18). All we need to do, and sometimes we need to do it every day, is to commit ourselves to following him and he will be there for us. God bless you.

A REFLECTION FOR JULY 9 FROM "THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN"

"The person who thinks only of himself says only prayers of petition; the one who thinks of his neighbor says prayers of intercession; whoever thinks only of loving and serving God says prayers of abandonment to God's will, and this is the prayer of the saints."

CATECHISM CORNER

Happy 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time! Ok, you're probably thinking last week's Spiritual Work of Mercy to "Bear Wrongs Patiently" was difficult; well, today we're going to "talk" about the Spiritual Work of "Forgive Offenses/Injuries". Even though both are tough, I think this one (for me) is the hardest.

"Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord" from Romans 12:19. If there is any vengeance that needs to be "dished out," in this life or the next the only One qualified to do it is the Lord, for He alone knows the secrets of all hearts. Thus, we must always let go of any desire in our hearts for vengeance, and in that sense at least, to forgive our enemies. That means stopping ourselves from exacting "petty vengeance" as well, which includes the use of detraction or slander or gossip to get back at people for the evil they may have done to us.

In short, we are to do what Jesus says: "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you" from Matthew 5:44. We are to pray for those in "darkness" because whatever harm they may have done to us, those who are evil are in danger of the greatest harm of all: everlasting loss and condemnation. What they have caused us to suffer pales in comparison to what they will suffer eternally if they do not repent.

However, forgiveness is probably the most misunderstood of all the works of mercy. It does NOT mean blindly letting oneself be victimized. You have a duty to protect yourself and your loved ones from harm, for you are all children of God whom He made in His own image and for whom He gave His life on the Cross. That's how valuable and precious you are in the eyes of our merciful Savior!

Forgiving our enemies, therefore, is entirely compatible with reasonable acts of self-protection. For example, forgiveness is entirely compatible with having criminals arrested and placed behind bars where they cannot do further harm to society. Forgiveness is even compatible with the use of lethal force by the police or the military in fending off violent criminals or aggressive foreign powers. Please read CCC 2263-2267.

Clearly, the obligation to forgive your enemies is compatible with protecting yourself and your loved ones from harm and demanding high standards of conduct from those close to you, including your own close family members. To prevent and block the spread of evil in these ways is actually a work of mercy, not only toward yourself and your loved ones, but even toward the perpetrators of evil. The perpetrators after all, often have little chance of ever coming to repentance without the help of the "reality therapy" by those charged with the social responsibility of defending the innocent. In other words, to love and forgive your enemies is not necessarily to let them trample all over you. When there is no effective way to defend oneself or others from harm, then that may be the time and the place meekly to carry the cross of persecution. BUT that time and place is certainly not every time and every place!

I believe that when we have difficulty with this Work of Mercy in our lives, we need to turn to the Bible, which has all the wisdom and direction we need. Please reflect on the Bible verses I've stated and also consult the Catechism – a wealth of information and guidance.

Have a most wonderful week, St. Francis! Next week we will conclude our "discussions" with the Works of Mercy to "Comfort the Sorrowful."



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today we hear Jesus say: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."

Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brings peace to those who are overwhelmed with life's burdens.

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!

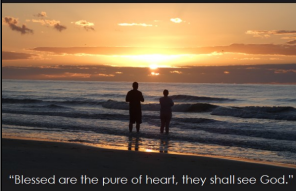


SVDP JULY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"

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



Living the Beatitudes Retreat



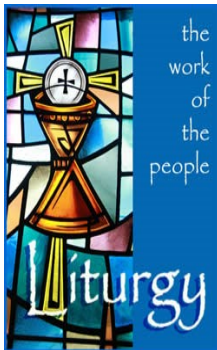
"Blessed are the pure of heart, they shall see God."

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!

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

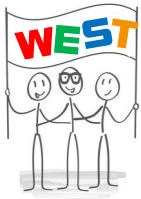


It is time for Liturgical Ministries signup! The signup sheets are on the counter in Shea Hall. Please take some time this week and sign up for your ministry. The sheets will be picked up next weekend (7/16).

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—7/22023

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Attendance: 204

Sunday Offertory	\$ 3,466.50
Donation Box.....	0.00
Other Donations*	320.00
Total Donations for the Week.....	<u>\$ 23,786.50</u>
Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 3,786.50
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations	<u>3,767.51</u>
Year-to-Date Donation ** Surplus	\$18.99

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$ 280.00
Parish Charity.....	0.00
Peter's Pence Collection	<u>759.00</u>
Total Non-Budget Donations	<u>\$ 1,039.00</u>

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

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

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.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST



The National Council of Catholic Women's Spirituality Commission developed a list of quotes to spark prayer, discussion and devotion to the Eucharistic Revival. We will be featuring one of these quotes each week in the bulletin.

John 6: 56-57

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me.

AN INSPIRATION FOR JULY 9 FROM "THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS"

Eternity: *"We must often draw the comparison between time and eternity. This is the remedy of all our troubles. How small will the present moment appear when we enter that great ocean."*

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton