



## AUGUST 20, 2023 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH  
7717 RIVER ROAD - TOWNSEND, TN 37882  
865 - 448 - 6070

WEBSITE: [STFRANCISTOWNSEND.ORG](http://STFRANCISTOWNSEND.ORG)  
E-MAIL: [STFRANCISTOWNSEND7717@GMAIL.COM](mailto: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  
**OCIA:** 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](mailto: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. 8/21 8:30 AM** Brian Barker †  
**TUES. 8/22 8:30 AM** Andrew T. Roth †  
**WED. 8/23** **NO MORNING MASS**  
**THURS. 8/24 8:30 AM** Patricia Van Rhein †  
**FRIDAY 8/25 8:30 AM** Rita Frances Polak †  
**SAT. 8/26 4:00 PM** Brian Barker †  
**SUN. 8/27 9:00 AM** Marion Ganley †

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, Joana 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, Kathy Janke, Charlotte Fernandez, Jennifer Reed, Dan Hogan, Elise Martin, Paula Watson, Mike Lauer, Tom Beasley, Julie Schirack, Donna Ashley, Savannah Bishop, Kathy Davis, Bruce Haverkos, Margaret Jordan, Ignacio Penas

**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 \$15 for 1 week.



**SANCTUARY FLOWERS:** *In Memory of Helen Gibson given by Suzie Fay.* 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.



**INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST**

**John 6:35**  
*Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."*

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>8/21</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	Church & Hall Cleaning
<b>Tue</b>	<b>8/22</b>		
<b>Wed</b>	<b>8/23</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	SVDP
<b>Thu</b>	<b>8/24</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>8/25</b>		
<b>Sat</b>	<b>8/26</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>8/27</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	Mass



**ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP  
 OPEN FOR BUSINESS  
 AFTER WEEKEND MASSES**



## PASTOR'S NOTES

### 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Today's liturgy is an invitation for us to reflect on the universal mission of the church. Such a reflection is rooted not only in our experience of God's people, in the witness of the gospel, and in the celebration of the liturgy, but also in the teachings of the Church. The message of universality that resonates throughout today's liturgy is better expressed in today's Alternative Opening prayer. We pray to the Father whose "care extends beyond the borders of race and nation to the hearts of all who live." We ask that the walls of prejudice come crashing down in the midst of the shadow of God's outstretched arms.

Our liturgy demands that we extend the love we share in the celebration of Eucharist to all the world. Christian faith without tolerance is not faith at all; it is self-righteous arrogance.

Today's first reading from the third chapter of Isaiah speaks of Israel as an open and missionary community. Non-Israelites can now become part of the people of God! The prophet makes it abundantly clear, that such membership involves commitments. These individuals of foreign descent must observe the Sabbath and hold fast to the covenant. Ministering to the God of Israel, loving his name, and being his servant spell out the implications of membership in the Israelite community.

In the second reading, Paul emerges as one who took membership in the Christian community very seriously. He gloried in his ministry, but it was a ministry that radiated Christ to both Jews and Gentiles. He experienced the Lord's mercy on his way to Damascus, and thereby he became all the more anxious to exhibit that mercy to the world. He had received an irrevocable call and, therefore, could not desist from communicating God's gift of life to others.

In the Gospel, Matthew presents the Canaanite woman as the embodiment of Christian membership. Though belonging to two minorities (she not only was a Gentile but also a Gentile woman), she dared to seek Jesus out. When others tried to rebuff her, she persisted. This is a unique story. The only part of this story that most people remember is Jesus telling to her "it is not right to take the food of the children (the Jews) and throw it to the dogs (meaning Gentiles)." A dog would be an unclean animal for the Jews, just as Gentiles were considered unclean by the Jews. A more accurate translation for the word "dog" used in this gospel is "puppies". No matter how offensive that could be, the important thing to notice is that the woman didn't turn and walk away in a huff. She was humble enough and clever enough and persistent enough to accept Jesus' remark and turn it into her advantage in order to gain his help to heal her daughter. Jesus had insisted on other occasions in the importance of perseverance in prayer and not giving up. The woman in the gospel wouldn't give up. The story shows that although Jesus' mission was not to the Gentiles before he was crucified, he was not opposed to their having full share in God's love and blessings. So, every Sunday, as we do today, we come together to hear about Jesus and to celebrate the love God has for us and for all people.

### AVOW—COMING SEPTEMBER 2023

Join the Religious Sisters of Mercy and other Catholic women to share the adventure of discernment. *Avow* is a small group for heart-to-heart conversation and study. Gatherings will be on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at Mary, Mother of Mercy Convent, Knoxville. For more info, contact Beth Parsons at [bparsons@dioknox.org](mailto:bparsons@dioknox.org).

**PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION ALONG TO ANY YOUNG WOMAN YOU THINK MIGHT BE INTERESTED.**

## CATECHISM CORNER

Good and happy Sunday St. Francis of Assisi! We've "talked" about saints a couple of times in depth here in the Corner. So, what do you know about our patron saint, St. Francis of Assisi? My knowledge, I thought, was fair, but once I started looking, my "knowledge" paled to the actual life of this saint.

What did St. Francis really look like? He was a scrawny and plain looking man. He wore a filthy tunic, with a piece of rope as a belt and no shoes. While preaching (sometimes to just the birds/animals!), he often would dance, weep, make animal sounds, strip to his underwear (this is where the society of nudists say that St. Francis was a nudist! Something I DIDN'T know!), or play the zither; which is a musical instrument consisting of a flat wooden sound box with numerous strings stretched across it, placed horizontally, and played with the fingers and a pick. His black eyes would sparkle as he did this!

Some facts:

- He was an Italian friar who lived in Italy in the 13th century. He lived a life of ascetic (the practice characterized of severe self-discipline and abstention from all forms of indulgence) poverty and was dedicated to Christian charity.
- He was born to a wealthy cloth merchant. St. Francis lived in wealth and ease until God used a meeting with a leper to change his heart. What happened when St. Francis met a leper? St. Francis had a fear and disgust of lepers. One day, however, he met a man afflicted with leprosy while riding his horse near Assisi. Though the sight of the leper filled him with horror and disgust, Francis got off his horse and kissed the leper. Then the leper put out his hand, hoping to receive something. Out of compassion, Francis gave money to the leper. But when Francis mounted his horse again and looked all around, he could not see the leper anywhere. It dawned on him that it was Jesus who he had just kissed. In embracing the leper, St. Francis experienced a singular moment of grace. That act of mercy should encourage us all.
- He is one of the most venerated religious figures in Roman Catholic history.
- He is known for his ministry to the poor and underprivileged, his care for nature and animals, and founding of the Franciscan order.
- He composed the prayer for the Stations of the Cross: We adore You O Christ and we praise You.

What did St. Francis suffer from? The summer of 1224 Francis went to the mountain retreat of La Verna (Alvernia), not far from Assisi. He stayed there for 40 days to pray how best to please God. As he prayed the Gospels for the answer, he came upon references to the Passion of Christ three times. On the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, he saw a figure coming toward him from the heavens. When the vision disappeared, it left not only a greater passion of love in Francis, but marked him with the stigmata (marks resembling the wounds on the crucified body of Jesus Christ). For the remainder of his life, Francis took the greatest care to hide the stigmata. Francis lived two years longer, in constant pain and almost totally blind. He had contracted an eye disease while evangelizing in the East in 1219. Medical treatment was unsuccessful and after a stay in Siena, he was brought back to Assisi where he died at the Porziuncola. Interesting, after the death of Francis, Brother Elias announced the stigmata to the order. Later, Brother Leo, the confessor and intimate companion of the saint who also left a written testimony of the event, said that in death Francis seemed like one just taken down from the cross!

Why is St. Francis holding a skull in some art pieces? The inclusion of the skull was popular in Counter-Reformation art, as a reminder of man's mortality, a memento mori emblem – "Remember you must die" – emphasizing Heaven, Hell and the salvation of the soul in the afterlife. (franciscanmedia.org) Hope you were enlightened by some of this information of our Patron Saint! St. Francis of Assisi – pray for us!



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The Gospel today announces that the kingdom and salvation are for all people. It is our persistent calling out to Jesus and our faith that count, for Jesus always responds.

**With love for your neighbors who have nothing, look around your house to see what furniture, household items, and clothing you no longer use...and give it 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month at 5:00 PM in the PRC! **This month it's on the 4th Wednesday.** All Are Welcome! **Thank You** for your continued support of SVDP!



### SVDP AUGUST "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"

Product of the Month:  
**Cake Mix and Frosting**



### A REFLECTION FOR AUGUST 20 FROM "THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN"

*"Each of us makes his own weather, determines the color of the skies in the emotional universe which he inhabits."*

### AN INSPIRATION FOR AUGUST 20 FROM "THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS"

**Discipline:** *"It is impossible for our human nature ever to stop moving; it has been made by its Creator ever to keep changing. Hence when we prevent it from using up its energy on trifles, and keep it on all sides from doing what it should not, it must necessarily move in a straight path towards truth."*

*St. Gregory of Nyssa*

  
**RETROUVAILLE**  
A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

[HelpOurMarriage.org](http://HelpOurMarriage.org)

### 4 STAGES OF MARRIAGE

The 4 stages of marriage are: 1) Romance, 2) Disillusionment, 3) Misery, and 4) Awakening. Many marriages experience the first 3 Stages. Marriages that end in divorce never make it to the 4th Stage of Awakening. Don't give up without learning about the 4th Stage of Awakening. If your marriage suffers from Disillusionment or Misery, please contact Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i). For confidential information about or to register for the September program beginning with a weekend on Sept. 8-10 call 800-470-2230 or 615-838-6724 or email: [nrv3043@gmail.com](mailto:nrv3043@gmail.com) or visit the web site at [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com)

# Save the Date!

## PARISH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY - PHOTOGRAPHY SESSION; 11/8 FROM 2-8 PM

The Welcoming Events and Social Team has decided it's time to get an updated pictorial directory of our parishioners. **There will only be one photo session so please mark this date on your calendars.** Each family will receive a free 8x10 photo for participating in this. There is no obligation or pressure to purchase any other photos.

We are looking for about 10 volunteers to help so please contact the office if you would be able to assist.



## WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—8/13/2023

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time —Attendance: 145

Sunday Offertory .....	\$ 2,021.00
Donation Box.....	0.00
Other Donations* .....	0.00
Total Donations for the Week.....	\$ 2,021.00

Year-to-Date Donations .....	\$ 23,689.69
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations .....	24,983.57
Year-to-Date Donation <b>Deficit**</b> .....	\$ 1,293.88

### Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund .....	\$ 60.00
Parish Charity.....	478.00
Diocesan School Tuition Fund .....	1,004.00
Total Non-Budget Donations .....	\$ 1,542.00

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

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

## MAUI DISASTER RELIEF

There will not be a special collection for disaster relief for the island of Maui. However, for those who want to assist financially, the Diocese is asking that they donate to Catholic Charities Hawaii at <https://www.Catholiccharitieshawaii.org/maui-relief/>. Please continue to pray for the many victims of this tragedy and for the loved ones who mourn family members and friends who perished in the fires.

## EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL NEWS AND EVENTS



**The International Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibit** will visit two parishes in the Diocese of Knoxville in September. This is a traveling display designed by Blessed Carlo Acutis. It contains an extensive assortment of photographs and historical descriptions of Eucharistic miracles, recognized by the Catholic Church that have taken place throughout history. Parishioner Sherry Hartz of the Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul in Chattanooga, and Deacon Jim Bodine of St. Thomas the Apostle in Lenoir City were instrumental in organizing these events:

### Basilica of St. Peter and Paul, Chattanooga

Saturday, September 16th from 10 am—8 pm

Sunday, September 17th from 8 am—2 pm

### St. Thomas the Apostle, Lenoir City

Saturday, September 23rd from 10 am—8 pm

Sunday, September 24th from 8 am—2 pm

All are welcome to these events and parishes are encouraged to organize groups to make this rare and magnificent pilgrimage as part of the **Eucharistic Revival Year of the Parish.**