



OCTOBER 1, 2023  
26TH 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  
**DEACON:** Deacon Jim Schmall  
**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 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. 10/2 8:30 AM** David Roth †  
**TUES. 10/3 8:30 AM** Brian Barker †  
**WED. 10/4** **NO MORNING MASS**  
**THURS. 10/5 8:30 AM** John Adams †  
**FRIDAY 10/6 8:30 AM** Philip & Margaret Ott  
**SAT. 10/7 4:00 PM** Familia Giraldo Madrid  
**SUN. 10/8 9:00 AM** Brian Barker †

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, Joanna Dogid, Chris Owens, Christopher Kramer, Rosemary Barker, Cam King, David Holmes, Amy Frink, Myra Montera, 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, Bruce Haverkos, Ignacio Penas, Dick DuRussel, Mike Scully, Paul Fain, Joyce Fain, Normand Messier, Jr.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** *In Memory of Charles Fiorella given by Camilla Sorrell.*

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:** 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**

**Pope Saint John Paul II (1920-2005)**

*“From the Eucharist comes strength to live the Christian life and zeal to share that life with others.”*

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>10/2</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Church &amp; Hall Cleaning</b>
<b>Tue</b>	<b>10/3</b>		
<b>Wed</b>	<b>10/4</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>SVDP</b>
<b>Thu</b>	<b>10/5</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>10/6</b>		
<b>Sat</b>	<b>10/7</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Vigil Mass</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>10/8</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Mass</b>

## 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



It can be hard to motivate children, can't it? We ask them to do something. We remind them, we bribe them, we kid and cajole them. Sometimes we succeed, but sometimes we don't. In Jesus' Parable of the Two Sons, a father asks his two sons to go out and work in his vineyard. The first son says no, but later he has a change of heart, and he starts working. The second son says yes, but in fact he does nothing. Does that sound familiar?

In this story, the father represents God, and the vineyard represents the people of Israel, our community of faith. The first son represents sinners, like the tax collectors and prostitutes, who initially reject God but later change their minds and start doing his will. And the second son represents those who at first seem saintly, like the chief priests and the elders. They outwardly say yes to God, but really do nothing at all. They have other priorities.

In this parable, Jesus is warning us. He's saying that those who reject our loving Father, but later repent and obey, will go to heaven. But those who give a meaningless yes to God will miss out unless they change their ways. Our words mean nothing if our promises aren't followed by action. As Jesus says earlier in Matthew's Gospel, "It's not those who say to me, 'Lord, Lord' who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the will of my father in heaven" (Mt.7:21).

Neither of these two sons is given to us as the model to follow, because the ideal person is the one who immediately says yes to the Father and carries out his wishes. That's what Jesus did. As Paul says in our second reading, Jesus emptied himself and became obedient, even to the point of death on a Cross. And God was so pleased that he gave him a name above all other names. So, Jesus is the model for us all to follow.

The first son was late in doing his father's will, but he wasn't too late. Over the years, that's what many sinners have come to learn, and many even became saints. St. Paul is a good example. St. Paul literally terrorized Christians before meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus. And there have been others. St. Matthew was a hated tax-collector before becoming a disciple. And in Africa, St. Augustine was a notorious womanizer and gambler. But when he heard St. Ambrose eloquently defend the faith against Arianism, he was so impressed that he reconciled with his mother, St. Monica, and he returned to the Church.

Today, however, many people are much too distracted to ever hear our loving God calling them. Consider Leo Tolstoy's story of three women who went to the well for some water. Nearby, a wise old man watched and listened as the women talked about their sons. 'My son,' said the first woman, 'is so skillful; he always does things better than the other children.' 'My son,' said the second woman, 'sings so well, so beautifully, like a nightingale! No-one has such a beautiful voice as him.' 'And you,' they asked the third woman who was quiet. 'Why don't you say something about your son?' 'Oh, he has nothing which I could praise, or tell about him,' she replied. 'My son is only a common boy, there's nothing so special about him.'

The women filled their buckets with water, and they headed home. The old man followed slowly behind. But the buckets were heavy, so the women stopped for a rest. Suddenly the three boys came towards them. The first one turned cartwheels, and the women shouted: 'What a skilled boy! Good job!' The second one sang beautifully, like a nightingale, and the women listened with tears in their eyes. The third boy went to his mother, took the buckets, and went home. Then the women asked the old man: 'What do you think about our sons?' 'Where are your sons?' asked the surprised old man. 'I can see only one son!'

(CONT. ON BACK PAGE)

## CATECHISM CORNER

Welcome to the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time and the beginning of another new month! I know people are saying where has the time gone, I know I do! It's like that every week, though, especially if you are working, have a family, house etc. etc. etc. We wonder how we can make time to go to Mass..... right? Which leads right into what we will "discuss" today in the Corner! The Third Commandment: Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. What? Wait! The Sabbath is Saturday! Isn't it?

I don't have enough space to fully explain this, but the CCC 2174 states: The day of the Resurrection: the new creation. Jesus rose from the dead "on the first day of the week," Because it is the "first day," the day of Christ's Resurrection recalls the first creation. Because it is the "eighth day" following the sabbath, it symbolizes the new creation ushered in by Christ's Resurrection. For Christians it has become the first of all days, the first of all feasts, the Lord's Day – Sunday." Simply, we come together as a community to celebrate and remember because it is the day of Jesus' resurrection! The CCC 2176 continues: "The celebration of Sunday observes the moral commandment inscribed by nature in the human heart to render to God an outward, visible, public, and regular worship "as a sign of His universal beneficence to all." Sunday worship fulfills the moral command of the Old Covenant, taking up its rhythm and spirit in the weekly celebration of the Creator and Redeemer of His people. Sunday is the fulfillment of the sabbath, so don't let any Seventh-day Adventist tell you differently!

Now a question may come up, is it wrong to miss Mass? The answer is – yes. Let's talk about the reasons not to miss Mass. First of all, to miss Mass deliberately on Sunday after Sunday leads to a loss of faith – the greatest of all tragedies. A priest friend of mine said it's like a habit. Once you get into the habit it's harder to "break" the habit. He said, "Going to Church is a good habit." Here's a good reason: Jesus recommended common prayer.... and promised that whenever two or three were gathered together in His name He would be there in the midst of them. (Matthew 18:20) In addition, public prayer is far more powerful than private prayer. That is why the Church in times of public disasters asks for public prayers. The Catholic Church has called for the Rosary to be prayed to avert wars on **several** occasions. One of the most famous events was in 1571 when Pope Pius V called for all of Europe to pray the Rosary for victory at the Battle of Lepanto. The battle resulted in a decisive victory and prevented the Ottoman expansion. Think about this: when people pray together, it is far more intimidating/frightening to the devil than when praying alone, because public prayer is an army that is attacking him. This is one of the many good reasons for our Church to continue to pray the St. Michael's Prayer at the end of every Mass! Another good reason to attend Sunday Mass, is a testimony that one is a Catholic where attendance provides a support community for others. The Mass is a gathering of friends, of people who care for each other where they are fed by the Word of the Lord and the Eucharist. Sound like the Last Supper, maybe? Finally, (and the one that I think is most important) we ought to go to Mass to "pay our bills." We "owe" God, remember? We owe God for our life, for we depend on Him for life and the blessings He so freely gives to us. Sunday Mass is simply our way of thanking God our Father for loving us SO much.

I'd like to end with a parodying of the time-worn excuses people give for not attending Sunday Mass. A pastor wrote this satirical piece called, "Reasons Why I Never Wash": 1) *I was made to wash as a child.* 2) *People who wash are hypocrites...they think they are cleaner than other people.* 3) *There are so many different kinds of soap, I could never decide which one was right.* 4) *I used to wash, but it got so boring, so I stopped.* 5) *I still wash on special days, like Christmas and Easter.* 6) *None of my friends wash.* 7) *I'm young, when I'm older and dirtier, I might wash.* 8) *(And my favorite!) People who make soap are only after your money.* From the booklet: The Ten Commandments of God by Rev. Albert Joseph Mary Shamon.



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The Gospel today is a great example of saying, "actions speak louder than words."

**As you put your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's poor box, know that you are putting your faith into action.**

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! All Are Welcome!

**Thank You** for your continued support of SVDP!

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### SVDP OCTOBER "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"



THANK YOU for all the paper towels and tissues donated in September.

Our October Products of the Month are  
**Peanut Butter and Jelly**



### THANK YOU FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF EAST TENNESSEE

The green envelope in our envelope packets goes to Catholic Charities of East Tennessee. Following is an excerpt from a Thank You letter from them:

*Thank you so much for your gift of \$6,205.00 to our Pregnancy Help Center here at Catholic Charities of East Tennessee. Your willingness to join with us to respect life and strengthen families is such a blessing! Please know that your gift is helping new parents learn how to be effective mothers and fathers. You are giving children a chance to grow up in a happy and healthy home.*

*We are told in Proverbs to "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6)*



### WES TEAM NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

**Fall Pot Luck**—October 8, 4 - 6 PM; See separate notice in this bulletin.

**Christmas Party**—December 10, 4:00 PM at the Barn Event Center



To receive the bulletin as an e-mail attachment every week, simply send an e-mail with "E-Bulletin" in the subject line to:

**SFABulletin7717@gmail.com.**



**FIRST FRIDAY  
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**Friday, October 6**

**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.



**OCTOBER 7 & 8  
SECOND COLLECTION  
MAINTENANCE FUND**

Your donations 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.



*Smile for the Camera!*

We are updating our pictorial directory and ....



to help make it complete!

Sign-up sheets are hanging on the closet door in Shea Hall for picture times! Please take a minute and sign up to have your picture taken for our new Parish Directory.

**PHOTOGRAPHY DATES AND TIMES:**

- Week 1: October 3, 4 & 5: ...4:00 - 7:30 PM
- October 6: .....4:00 - 5:15 PM
- October 7: .....2:30 - 6:15 pm (No photos taken during Mass time)
- October 8: .....All slots are full
- Week 2: October 27: .....4:00 - 5:15 PM
- October 28: .....2:30 - 6:15 PM (No photos taken during Mass time)
- October 29: .....10:15 AM - Noon



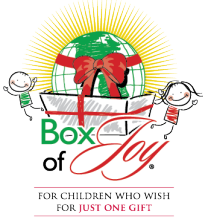
Do you have some recent photos (from the last couple of years) of St. Francis of Assisi Parish life that you would be willing to share in our new pictorial directory? They could be pictures of any church gathering that celebrates the family life of this parish! For example: The Smokies baseball game, Potluck Dinners, Food Drives, Christmas Party, the Sacraments, Decorating the church or church grounds, Cleaning the church or church grounds.... If so, please e-mail your pictures (and/or questions) to JoAnneRA.726@gmail.com.



**CCW**  
Council of Catholic Women

The National Council of Catholic Women (CCW) Smoky Mountain Deanery will be holding their October meeting at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Townsend. All women of the parish are invited and encouraged to attend.

**October 14, 2023 ❖ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**



### CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH BOX OF JOY PROJECT

A Box of Joy is a Christmas shoebox that is donated and packed with toys, clothing, school supplies and other treasured items by U.S. parishes, schools and groups. Each child who receives a Box of Joy also receives a rosary and a booklet in their own language that tells *The Story of Jesus*. Box of Joy provides hope to children in need, each gift represents Christ's love, and may be the only Christmas gift they receive.

Our St. Francis of Assisi Council of Catholic Women group is once again sponsoring the Cross Catholic Outreach Box of Joy project. You can fill your own box (available in the PRC or at the St. Clare Gift Shop) or purchase a box online at <https://crosscatholic.org/boxofjoy/create-a-box-online/>. We appreciate any support the parish can give us with this project. If you have questions, contact Ilene Rainwater at (865)748-1873. If you decide to fill your own box, we need to collect them by **November 1** so we can get them to the Diocese drop-off point.

### Potluck Dinner



Our Fall Potluck is fast-approaching. This year there will be **NO** sign-up sheets. Just bring whatever you want—salad, side dishes, appetizers, desserts...

**Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> 4-6 pm Shea Hall**

The church will be providing fried chicken, pulled pork and buns so there is no need for "main dish" items. Hope to see you all there.



### SUNDAY MORNINGS COFFEE, DONUTS, AND FELLOWSHIP RETURNS!

Back by popular demand: after a long COVID hiatus, we are returning to offering Coffee, Donuts, and Fellowship after each Sunday morning Mass. Donna Czernewski has graciously agreed to coordinate this wonderful ministry and is looking for some dedicated volunteers to help out!

A sign-up sheet is available on the counter in Shea Hall for anyone who would be interested in hosting any given Sunday. Hosting duties include (but are not necessarily limited to) providing a small assortment of pastries (donuts, cupcakes, muffins, scones, danishes, etc... no casseroles or main-course dishes, just light finger-food pastries please), setting up the coffee station, setting out paper plates, napkins, utensils, cleaning up after fellowship, and taking out the trash.

**Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**



**After the 9:00 Mass in Shea Hall**

**DEACON'S NOTES (CONT. FROM PAGE 3)**

In this story, the wise old man is God himself. Unlike the others, he's not distracted by the song and dance. The only boy he sees is the third one who carries his mother's buckets. He's the only person who accepts his call to humble service. Right now, we're all being asked the same question: Are we doing the will of the Father? Is the answer yes or no? Deep in our hearts we know the answer. Fortunately, it's not too late to change. But remember this:

*Our 'Yes' is worthless if it's not reflected in the way we live.*



**SVDP FALL PROJECTS**

We are sure you are all wondering where the collections are this year for sneakers and for school supplies. All students at Townsend Elementary were given the opportunity to receive a new pair of sneakers and school supplies through various organizations in Blount County. SVDP donated \$600 in school supplies to the "Teacher and Student Supply Store" at the school. This is where the teachers are able to pick up extra supplies for projects. We usually replenish this store in January. If you would like to donate towards the cost of the Fall or January supplies, please drop a check into the Poor Box made out to SVDP with School Supplies in the memo line.



**THANK YOU!**

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—9/24/2023**

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time —Attendance: 106

Sunday Offertory .....	\$ 1,765.81
Donation Box .....	0.00
Other Donations* .....	0.00
Donations for the Week .....	\$ 1,765.81
Year-to-Date Donations .....	\$ 42,548.20
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations.....	<u>46,199.63</u>
Year-to-Date Donation <b>Deficit**</b> .....	<b>\$ 3,701.43</b>

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund .....	\$ 505.00
Parish Charity .....	0.00
2nd Collection for St. Mary's Legacy Clinic .....	<u>\$10.00</u>
Total Non-Budget Donations .....	<b>\$ 515.00</b>

\* Mass Intentions, Flowers, Candles, Facility Use, etc.  
 \*\* Based on Year-to-Date Total Donations minus Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations



**SECOND COLLECTION FOR  
DIOCESAN DEACON FORMATION PROGRAM**

Please be generous in supporting our Diocesan Deacon Formation Program on October 14 & 15. Our diocese is greatly blessed with over 100 deacons, 24 of whom were just ordained in 2022. Your donation will assist with the ongoing formation and development of our deacons now serving in the diocese, and will also help to provide instruction for a new class of 19 men who, God willing, will be ordained in 2027! Deacons are ordained to the service of the Bishop, his priests, and the people of God. They are a bridge between the sanctuary and the world in which they live. They bring the altar to the neighborhood and bring the needs of the neighborhood to the altar. They teach, and help organize charitable resources within the parish and diocese. They bring the Gospel and the gift of themselves to the soup kitchens, the food banks, prisons, hospitals and wherever else a need exists as well as to the parish they are assigned to. Thank you for your support and generosity.