



SEPTEMBER 17, 2023
24TH 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 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. 9/18 8:30 AM Charles[†] & Margaret[†] Wagner
TUES. 9/19 8:30 AM Larry Daily[†]
WED. 9/20 **NO MORNING MASS**
THURS. 9/21 8:30 AM Marion Ganley[†]
FRIDAY 9/22 8:30 AM Val Jean[†] & Tom[†] Emerling
SAT. 9/23 4:00 PM Brian Barker[†]
SUN. 9/24 9:00 AM Greyson Roache

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, Kathy Davis, Bruce Haverkos, Ignacio Penas, Dick DuRussel, Mike Scully, Paul Fain, Joyce Fain

SANCTUARY CANDLE *In Memory of*
Jeanne Vilardo 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: *In Memory of*
Delores Tollas given by Dan & Norene O'Donnell.

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**

**St. Alphonsus Liguori
 (1696-1787)**

“Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest of the sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us.”

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	9/18	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	9/19		
Wed	9/20	5:00 PM	SVDP
Thu	9/21		
Fri	9/22		
Sat	9/23	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	9/24	9:00 AM	Mass

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Hi there! As Father Antonio mentioned earlier, my name is Deacon Jim Schmall. My wife Lesa and I recently moved here from Millington, Tennessee, a small town just north of Memphis. We have been here about a month now and have really fallen in love with the place. The peaceful side of the Smokies. I get it. I was ordained a Deacon for the Diocese of Memphis in 2016. For the last seven years, I have been involved in various minis-

tries on both the diocesan level as well as the parish level. This decision to pick up and move from one end of the state to the other had nothing to do with my ministry in the Diocese of Memphis. My wife and I were happy there and had no intention of leaving. Long story short, our oldest daughter moved here with her family several months ago and found themselves without any family or support group. So, after much prayer and discussion and more prayer, we made a family decision and decided to move. We told our other two children, our son in Memphis, and our daughter in Columbia, TN and they are on board with our decision as well.

When I called my Bishop in Memphis and informed of our decision, I asked what the process was to be transferred as a deacon to the Diocese of Knoxville because I wished to continue my ministry. He was very gracious in his response and said, as much as we will miss you, Knoxville will be blessed to have you.

Now, as a deacon or a priest, you can't move from one diocese to another on a whim. It's a process. Letters must be written on your behalf and paperwork must be completed, and interviews and background checks must be done. I have completed all those requirements now and this past week I was notified by Deacon Tim Elliott that I was being assigned as deacon to St. Francis.

I met Fr. Antonio for lunch on Tuesday, and we immediately hit it off. He has been very welcoming and gracious through this process, and I look forward to working with him. Just as I look forward to working with you, the parishioners of St. Francis, the "Little Church on the Little River". In the weeks and months to come I hope to get to know each one of you. It shouldn't be hard, it's a small parish in a small town and I experienced that small town effect as Fr. and I were leaving the restaurant on Tuesday. We ran into a parishioner and her family, and we chatted for a minute and as we left Fr. Antonio turned to me and said "small town".

My wife and I have a Maryville address, but I think we're closer to Townsend than Maryville. We are only 20 minutes from here. We are happy to be here and look forward to getting to know you moving forward.

Once again, the scriptures on this weekend talk about forgiveness. It seems as though this is a very important aspect of our following in the ways of the Lord. Forgiveness is the hallmark of a Christian, remember? We are called to be a forgiving people, and most of us try to be that way. We work at it each day. Sometimes we do well and there are times when we don't really do it at all. But at least we try, and the Lord understands our weaknesses, our failures and our need to forgive and to be forgiven again and again.

In many ways, we are like Peter. We are willing to forgive, but there is a limit to our forgiving attitudes and ways. How many times are we to forgive? 7 times? Peter thought that would be the extreme. (3 + 3 and one more for good measure). Surely, God would not expect any more than that. Then we hear Jesus' response: No, no, Peter, you have it all wrong. You are to forgive 70 times 7. Then Jesus went on to tell that neat parable of the servant who owed the king a huge amount of money. Not being able to pay, the servant begged

(CONT. ON NEXT PAGE)

DEACON'S NOTES (CONT. FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

for leniency, just a little more time, PLEASE. The King then, in his mercy and compassion, relented and wrote off his entire debt. But when it came to dealing with his fellow servant, that was a different story. He treated him harshly, demanded his money back and had him thrown into jail. That attitude would make any of us angry. So, the King had him put into jail until he paid back every last cent. That's exactly how the Lord will treat us unless we forgive one another from our hearts.

When we stop to think about it: all of life is a gift, freely given by a generous father. All of us are hopelessly in debt. Our selfish and self-centered sinful ways have made us bankrupt in the eyes of God, much worse than our national debt. The only hope we have is that God will forego that moral note. That is exactly what he has done. He has forgiven us, written off all our failures, foolishness, and sin. We owe more than we could ever repay. Just think: A harsh word once spoken cannot be unspoken. An unkind deed, once done, can never be undone. And remember, most of us have memories like elephants; we never forget. The only solution to our dilemma is forgiveness, freely given or freely accepted. God's forgiveness can only be received if we are ready to forgive our neighbor. We say this every day when we pray the Our Father. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

The words of Jesus are rather strong and to the point. There is no such thing as a private reconciliation with God. We cannot be right with God unless we try our best to be reconciled with one another. That is why many theologians say there can be no Eucharist, no sacrament if there is a separation and division in our families, communities, and our gatherings as the people of God, the body of Christ. In this area of forgiveness, we could say that God deals with us as we deal with one another.

Once there was a business man who wanted to hire a new employee. The man devised a simple test for screening potential applicants for the job. He asked this simple question: How much is two plus two? The first applicant was an accountant, and when asked the question he replied the answer is exactly 4.0. The second applicant was an engineer and, before answering the question, the man applied several mathematical formulas using his calculator and then replied, the answer is exactly 4.00193.

The third applicant was a lawyer. When asked, how much is two plus two? The lawyer thought for a moment and then asked how much do you want it to be?

Now of all the responses, I think that the lawyer's response comes closest to the question posed by Peter in today's Gospel. How often must we forgive?

Maybe Jesus would tell us today: that depends on you. How many times have you been forgiven in the past? How many times will you need to be forgiven again and again? When that day comes when you no longer need forgiveness, then you can stop forgiving. But remember, God's mercy and compassion cannot be yours unless you are willing to share that mercy and compassion with others. And there is one more thought: If we believe that the Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion, then those beautiful signs of love are to be shared with our neighbor also. God bless you.

CATECHISM CORNER

Good morning, St. Francis of Assisi Parish! Today in the Corner, we “discuss” the First Commandment: You Shall Worship the Lord Your God and Him Only Shall You Serve. First, please read Exodus 20:2-5 and Deuteronomy 5:6-9 and 6:5.

So, why must I/we worship God? Imagine someone who never grew up being told to say thank you. Such a person would never really be appreciative of anything he/she received in life because he/she would simply expect it to be done. He/she would have no appreciation for the hard work, sacrifices, or generosity of others. And while others might simply shrug off his/her lack of appreciation, he/she is missing out on a part of life that comes from appreciating others and being grateful for what we receive. Or think of it this way: Worship simply means to acknowledge the worth of another. We're always doing that with an athlete or an entertainer. Suppose you wanted to become a great athlete or actor or singer, wouldn't you try to imitate your “idol”? Wouldn't you ask for their advice and, if you could, ask for their help? And I bet you'd make the sacrifices they tell you that are needed to reach your goal? Of course you would! I know I would! Then why should it be different when it comes to God? No star, no idol, can even come close to Him. With a single word, He created this most wonderful world for us. Every day and every hour He is constantly heaping countless blessings on us. He even sent His Son to save us!

To help us better understand, here is a story about our favorite saint – St. Francis. One day a man came to St. Francis of Assisi and asked him why he should love God or worship Him? St. Francis said nothing, but took the man down the street to where a crippled blind beggar was sitting. Francis went up to the man and said, “Sir, if I give you your sight and restore your health, would you love me?” “Love you!” exclaimed the beggar. “Why I'd be your slave for life.” Francis cured him. Then he turned to his doubter and said, “God has given you your sight and your wealth and all that you are and have, and you say you cannot love Him?” From the booklet: The Ten Commandments of God by Rev. Albert Joseph Mary Shamon.

Good question St. Francis! Worship God? We should idolize Him (that is **adoration**); we should eagerly follow His directions (that is **devotion**); we should ask His help (that is **prayer**); and we should take up the cross daily in order to follow Christ (that is **sacrifice**). This all makes sense, doesn't it? We are to adore God, to be devoted to God, to pray to Him, to make sacrifices for Him, because we owe a debt to God. We remind ourselves of this at every Mass when the priest says the Prefaces for the Eucharistic Prayers: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. And we response: It is right and just.

The CCC states: “The first commandment embraces faith, hope, and charity. When we say ‘God’ we confess a constant, unchangeable being, always the same, faithful and just, without any evil. It follows that we must necessarily accept His words and have complete faith in Him and acknowledge His authority. He is almighty, merciful, and infinitely beneficent....Who could not place all hope in Him? Who could not love Him when contemplating the treasures of goodness and love He has poured out on us? Hence the formula God employs in the Scripture at the beginning and end of His commandment: ‘I am the LORD.’”

Please reflect on this Scripture reading from Acts of Apostles 17:25 where St. Paul tells the Athenians “It is He who gives to everyone life and breath and everything.” If we fail to appreciate God's goodness and mercy and fail to grasp his generosity in our lives, we stunt our spiritual growth. We would risk falling into the sin of presumption and losing our salvation. Yeah, it's that important!

Have a most grace filled week St. Francis!



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The challenge in today's Gospel is to forget how others have behaved toward us and to look to God's way of loving and forgiving. Our focus must be on God.

Is there a neighbor or friend of yours who is in temporary need because of a loss of a job or an illness? Please leave a message for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul...we want to help!

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 SEPTEMBER "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"



THANK YOU for all your donations this year. Our September Product of the Month will be:

Paper Towels and Tissues



SURVEY

We want to hear from you!

Would you take just a couple of minutes to answer a brief 5-question survey regarding Adult Catechesis in our parish? The survey is accessible from the home page of our website: www.stfrancistownsend.org. Simply click on the SURVEY icon and follow the on-screen prompts.

If you cannot access the online survey, you are welcome to pick up a paper copy from the table in the church vestibule and return it to Julie Dew or to the Parish Office. Thank You! Your feedback will help us tremendously!

WES TEAM NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS



Next Meeting—September 28 at Noon in Shea Hall; All are welcome! We will finalize the Fall Potluck details and hear updates on the Christmas Party. Lunch will be served.

Pet Blessing—September 30, 11:00 AM, Behind the PRC Building. See separate notice.

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

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



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.



WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—9/10/2023

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time —Attendance: 148

Sunday Offertory	\$ 2,330.00
Donation Box.....	40.00
Other Donations*	<u>170.00</u>
Total Donations for the Week.....	\$ 2,540.00

Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 37,442.39
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations	<u>39,127.61</u>
Year-to-Date Donation Deficit**	\$ 1,685.22

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,075.00
Parish Charity.....	<u>50.00</u>
Total Non-Budget Donations	\$ 1,125.00

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK

Ran out of space this week!!! Watch for announcements on the Pet Blessing, CCW/Cross Catholic Outreach Box of Joy, and the Fall Potluck Dinner in next week’s bulletin.

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**.



Smile for the Camera!

We are updating our pictorial directory and



to help make it complete!

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

THERE HAVE BEEN NEW DATES AND TIMES ADDED.

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: 10:15 AM - Noon
- 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

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS!

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.



Christmas in September Sale

ALL MERCHANDISE 15% OFF

9/2 - 9/30

The sale includes our exclusive "Artistic Nativity Scene" which is made and painted by hand here in Townsend, TN. Each one is a unique design. Regularly: \$149.95 **This month only: \$127.50**