



SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
25TH 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. 9/25 8:30 AM Nicholas C. Provenzo †
TUES. 9/26 8:30 AM Brian Barker †
WED. 9/27 **NO MORNING MASS**
THURS. 9/28 8:30 AM Normand Messier †
FRIDAY 9/29 8:30 AM Joe & Samantha Eberhardt,
 Natalie & Joseph Watson
SAT. 9/30 4:00 PM LaRene Anderson † & Jeannine Korth
SUN. 10/1 9:00 AM Bea Daily †

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, Normand Messier, Jr.

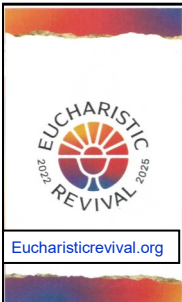
SANCTUARY CANDLE *In Memory of Grace Harth given by Camilla Sorrell.*

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. John Vianney (1786-1859)

“When we have been to Holy Communion, the balm of love envelopes the soul as the flower envelops the bee.”

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	9/25	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	9/26		
Wed	9/27		
Thu	9/28	Noon	WEST Meeting
Fri	9/29		
Sat	9/30	11:00 AM	Pet Blessing
		4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	10/1	9:00 AM	Mass

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



PASTOR'S NOTES

When God's people were in exile in Babylon, they were as depressed as anyone could possibly be. They had lost everything. They were sure they had lost God's love because of their sinfulness. Today we hear the prophet assure them it is never too late to return to the Lord. Even though they knew they were not worthy of it, they would have God's mercy if they would reform their lives.

God is forgiving, not because we are worthy, but because it is God's nature to be generous and forgiving. The theme of God's generosity prepares us for today's

gospel.

Jesus' parables, as always, are designed to shock us into thinking. It's normal for us to feel that the employer was unfair and that's exactly how Jesus knew we would feel. It is true the owner was more generous with some than with others, but was he unfair with anyone? Would that be unfair for the employer to do that? What do you think Jesus was trying to tell us?

The clue to understanding the parable is the first line where Jesus tells us this is what the kingdom of heaven is like. Jesus was telling us why he was always willing to reach out to sinners, something he was frequently criticized for doing. He wants us to know it's never too late to find God if we wish to. Remember the good thief whom Jesus forgave on the cross?

"The usual daily wage" in the parable is a symbol for the immense happiness we will all have in God's kingdom. Some individuals may be closer to God because they served and loved God more faithfully than others, but we will all be equal, whether we receive God's grace early or late in life, we will all be as happy as we can possibly be.

Jesus explained his forgiveness of sinners by this parable. The parable was meant to help to Jewish Christians welcome those who came to know Christ later in life and accept them as equals in God's kingdom. Today we have no problem with these ideas. We are always happy to see people turn their lives toward God, whether they stayed away at some time in their lives and came back, or whether for the first time, even late in life, they become believers in Christ and join his Church.

Sometimes complaining can be positive, but we have to be careful not to make it a way of life. If we want to complain, it helps to stop and count our blessings and we might realize God has treated us far better than any of us deserve!

On the other hand, today's parable connects with envy. Envy makes us miserable. Envy is when we look around at others and think "they" have much more than we do, they have had more breaks in life than we have, etc. We feel life is not fair and we are depressed over it.

I believe God is more than fair with all of us. If we want to compare ourselves with others, we need to compare ourselves also with those who have not been as blessed as we have. Always wanting more may motivate us to achieve in life, but it can also be a formula for constant unhappiness. We need to always focus on the positive, on our blessings and give thanks.

The key to joy in life is gratitude. God's ways are not our ways, Isaiah tells us. Part of the joy in eternity will be praising God for his abundant love and goodness to us. This Eucharist that we celebrate now, which means "thanksgiving," is the most perfect way to praise God today.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

On **September 27**, the Church celebrates the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, who knew that "God had sent him to bring good news to the poor." Together with your gifts, the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul continue his work and mission in our parish.

This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to "bring good news to the poor," by assisting numerous families by providing food, and financial assistance for utility and rent bills, etc. Thank You!

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.

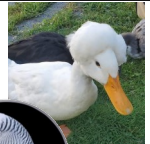
Our September Product of the Month is:

Paper Towels and Tissues



BLESSING of the ANIMALS Saturday, September 30, 11 AM Behind the PRC Building ALL PETS ARE WELCOME !

Please Note: There will be a special "Drive-By" Blessing following the group blessing for those who wish for their animal to remain in their vehicle during the group blessing. Follow the directions for where to park your vehicle during the service.



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 on back page of this bulletin.

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.



THANK YOU!

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—9/17/2023

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time —Attendance: 142

Sunday Offertory	\$ 3,017.00
Donation Box	3.00
Other Donations*	270.00
Total Donations for the Week	\$ 3,290.00
Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 40,732.39
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations.....	42,663.62
Year-to-Date Donation Deficit**	\$ 1,931.23

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$ 35.00
Parish Charity	20.00
2nd Collection for St. Mary's Legacy Clinic	\$ 1,095.00
Total Non-Budget Donations	\$ 1,150.00

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

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

THANK YOU, PARISHIONERS!



May - August, 2023 - 24 households

\$ 71.20 total donations!

Thank You, Parishioners!



AUGUST 2023

Total Pledged: \$12,823
 Collections to Date: \$15,098

You make ministries possible!

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. The dates for the events in Chattanooga have passed, but there is still time to attend the event in Lenoir City:

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.**

CATECHISM CORNER

Happy Sunday St. Francis! Today we will “talk” about the Second Commandment: You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain. To start off, please refresh why this is an important commandment by reading Exodus 20:7 and Deuteronomy 5:11.

God calls each one by name. Everyone’s name is sacred. The name is the icon of the person. It demands respect as a sign of the dignity of the one who bears it. (CCC 2158) This second commandment demands respect for the Lord’s name. To take the name of the Lord our God in vain is quite simply profanity. In addition, the second commandment forbids false oaths using God’s name. But oaths made for grave and right reasons are permissible (for example, in court) Canon Law 1199 §1 states: “An oath, that is the invocation of the divine name as a witness to truth, cannot be taken unless in truth, in judgment, and in justice.”

Bad language, or swearing, can be divided into three categories. First, there is profanity—language that serves to debase or defile the sacred. Using God’s name in vain, damning people and things to hell, reviling heaven, and blaspheming fall into this category. Second, there is vulgarity—morally crude words that typically refer to the excretory functions of the body. And the third category encompasses obscenity—those words that are designed to incite lust or depravity and that refer to the sexual organs or the act of sex itself. All of these words are derogatory, treating sex solely as a means of pleasure and reducing the human person to a mere object. Like the excretory words, most of them are used as insults or utterances devoid of any relation to the meaning of the word.

Why, then, do people swear? Psychiatrists agree that they do this because they have an odd quirk in their personality: a feeling of inferiority and some emotional immaturity. (*The Ten Commandments of God* by Rev. Albert Joseph Mary Shamon p. 12) Some swear from peer pressure (this happens at ALL ages); some because of their lack of ability and the vocabulary to express exactly how they really feel, just plain thoughtlessness; others because of the bad company they associate with; and finally, profanity is a sign of a lack of faith and good manners! You can generally tell the country a stranger is from by the language he/she speaks. So, we can tell what country will be yours/ours by the language we speak. The language of Heaven is that of praise and glory to God; the language of hell is profanity and cursing. Which is your/our country?

Words are powerful. God created the world with a Word. By the words of consecration, a priest can bring Christ to our altars on earth at every Mass. By the words of absolution, a priest can forgive the most serious of sins. One of the most powerful words in the world is the word “Jesus.” And His message to us is clear. In order to become perfect, we must give ourselves completely to Him. Every thought and word should be spent in His service, and controlling our tongues is an integral part of this struggle. “For we all make many mistakes, and if any one makes no mistakes in what he says he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body also” (Jas. 3:2).

After you read this, please take a few moments to reflect on this quote: “If you want to be obedient, you have to overcome many obstacles, and each time you are disobedient, it is more difficult to be obedient the next time. Little by little, disobedience can become a fundamental attitude, affecting not only the will, but also the intellect.” — Fr. Wilfrid Stinissen, from his book: *Into Your Hands, Father*.

My prayer for you this week is to have a very peaceful week filled with the love and joy that our heavenly Father freely gives to us. God bless!



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: 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



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**

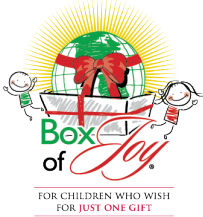




CCW
Council of Catholic Women

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 8th 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 15th



After the 9:00 Mass in Shea Hall