



## SEPTEMBER 3, 2023 22ND 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. 9/4 8:30 AM** To St. Joseph for the Giraldo Family's Well Being  
**TUES. 9/5 8:30 AM** Ron Korth †, Normand Messier  
**WED. 9/6** **NO MORNING MASS**  
**THURS. 9/7 8:30 AM** Carl McAtee †  
**FRIDAY 9/8 8:30 AM** Rosemary Barker  
**SAT. 9/9 4:00 PM** Marion Ganley †  
**SUN. 9/10 9:00 AM** Judy Compton †

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 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

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** *In Memory of Normand & Therese Messier given by Joyce & Ed Welsh.* 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 Dorothy Simons & Molly Pickett 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.



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

**CCC 1327**

*"In brief, the Eucharist is the sum and summary of our faith: 'Our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking.'" (Quoting St. Irenaeus)*

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>9/4</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	Church & Hall Cleaning <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>
<b>Tue</b>	<b>9/5</b>		
<b>Wed</b>	<b>9/6</b>		NO SVDP Meeting
<b>Thu</b>	<b>9/7</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>9/8</b>		
<b>Sat</b>	<b>9/9</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>9/10</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	Mass



## PASTOR'S NOTES

### 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Last Sunday we heard Jesus granting Peter a special place among the apostles because of his confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Son of the living God. Traditionally the Messiah was to be in the same model as the great King David, a strong victorious warrior. The Messiah would defeat Israel's enemies and restore the land to its rightful owners.

Jesus shocked his disciples when he told them that he must suffer and die in Jerusalem. They simply could not conceive that God would abandon his servant – the one whom Peter had just proclaimed “the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16). It made no sense! Yet, when Peter tried to dissuade him, Jesus rebuked him sharply: “Get behind me Satan! You are a hindrance to me; for you are not on the side of God but of men” (16:23).

Peter was by no means the first (or the last) person who struggled to understand the mind of God. We all tend to view things in human terms. When God called Jeremiah, in today's first reading, to warn the Israelites about their imminent chastisement, the religious leaders rejected and even physically abused the prophet (Jeremiah 20:1-2). In his confusion, Jeremiah confessed his bitterness: “O Lord, you deceived me, and I was deceived.... I have become a laughing-stock all the day” (20:7).

The call to discipleship – which both Peter and Jeremiah experienced – is a privilege and a challenge. The privilege rests in the disciple's close relationship with a loving God. At the last supper, Jesus told his followers: “No longer do I call you servants... But I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you” (John 15:15). Imagine the special favor of being known as a friend of God, the grace of learning what is in Jesus' heart as he reveals to you his Father's perfect plan and intention. What could be a greater honor!

The challenge comes as we travel the road that leads to such a relationship with God. Many times a disciple's limited human wisdom will be confronted by the mystery of divine wisdom. God wants to expand our vision and give us a broader view of the way he works, and this expansion can sometimes be painful. Yet, as a child sometimes struggles to learn the wiser path from its parents, so too a disciple will gain wisdom as he or she allows God to form a new heart within.

Despite their initial inability to grasp God's ways, both Jeremiah and Peter persisted in obedience. In the end, they became shining beacons reflecting the glory of their beloved Master – the joy and strength God gave them – the intimate knowledge of his love – more than compensated for the cost of discipleship.

By allowing God to work in our hearts, we, too, can open a pathway for God to form us as disciples – beloved friends of Jesus Christ.

### **BLESSING of the ANIMALS**

**Saturday, September 30, 11 AM, Behind the PRC Building**

More info is on the Bulletin Board

## CATECHISM CORNER

Happy Sunday, St. Francis of Assisi! Have you noticed the two saint statues on the wall in the small alcove? One of those is St. Clare. I've often wondered about St. Clare.....who she is...how did she become a saint....why is she associated with St. Francis.....Well, I'm going to try to answer my questions and hopefully answer any you have of this most wonderful saint!

St. Clare of Assisi was born in Assisi on July 16, 1194, as Chiara Offreduccio, the beautiful eldest daughter of a wealthy representative of an ancient Roman family, Favorino Sciffi, Count of Sasso-Rosso and his wife Ortolana who was a very devout woman belonging to the noble family of Fiumi. As a young girl, Clare dedicated herself to prayer. At 18-years-old, she heard St. Francis of Assisi preach during a Lenten service in the church of San Giorgio and asked him to help her live according to the Gospel. On Palm Sunday in 1212, Clare left her father's home and went to the chapel of the Porziuncula to meet with Francis. There, Clare's hair was cut off and she was given a plain robe and veil in exchange for her rich gown. Clare joined the convent of the Benedictine nuns of San Paulo, near Bastia, under Francis' orders. When her father found her and attempted to force her back into his home, she refused and professed that she would have no other husband than Jesus Christ. In order to give her the greater solitude she desired, Francis sent Clare to Sant' Angelo in Panzo, another Benedictine nun's monastery. Clare's sister Catarina, who took the name Agnes, joined her at this monastery (I bet their father wasn't happy about that!). The two remained there until a separate dwelling was built for them next to the church of San Damiano.

Overtime, other women joined them wanting to live a simple life of austerity, seclusion from the world, and poverty, according to a Rule which Francis gave them as a Second Order. St. Clare and her sisters wore no shoes, ate no meat, lived in a poor house, and kept silent most of the time. They became known as the "Poor Ladies of San Damiano." Their lives consisted of manual labor and prayer, yet, they were very happy because the Lord was close to them all the time. For a brief period of time, the order was directed by St. Francis himself and by 1216, Clare became the abbess of San Damiano. While serving as the leader of her order, Clare defended them from attempts to impose a rule on them that more closely followed the Rule of Saint Benedict than Francis. Clare was so devoted and dedicated to Francis that she was often referred to as "alter Franciscus," or another Francis. She encouraged and aided the man she saw as a spiritual father figure, and took care of him as he grew old. Following Francis' death, Clare continued to promote her order, fighting off every attempt from each pope trying to impose a rule on her order that would water down their "radical commitment to corporate poverty."

In 1224, an army of rough soldiers came to attack Assisi. Although very sick, Clare went out to meet them with the Blessed Sacrament on her hands and had the Blessed Sacrament placed at the wall where the enemies could see it. This is why she is portrayed with a Monstrance in her hands. Then, on her knees, she begged God to save the Sisters. In that moment, a sudden fright struck the attackers and they fled as fast as they could without harming anyone in Assisi. On August 9, 1253, Pope Innocent IV declared Clare's rule would serve as the governing rule for Clare's Order of Poor Ladies. Two days later, Clare died at 59-years-old. Ten years after Clare's death, the order became known as the Order of Saint Clare. In 1255, Pope Alexander IV canonized Clare as Saint Clare of Assisi. (catholicsaints.com)

During St. Clare's sickness, she suffered great pains for many years, but she expressed that no pain could trouble her. St. Clare was designated the patron saint of television in 1958 by Pope Pius XII, because when St. Clare was very ill, she could not attend mass and was reportedly able to see and hear it on the wall in her room. She is also the patroness of eye disease, goldsmiths, and laundry. St. Clare's feast day is celebrated on August 11. **OH NO! I've run out of room!** Have a grace filled week!



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today, we hear Jesus say to us, "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." The challenge is to let go so God can lead us.

**This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul enabled the poor to experience Jesus' presence by assisting familie with food, utilities and rent, etc. Thank You!**

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 SEPTEMBER "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"



THANK YOU so much for all the cake mixes and frosting you donated during the month of August. Our September Product of the month will be:

**Paper Towels and Tissues**



### A REFLECTION FOR SEPTEMBER 3 FROM "THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN"

*"The wicked fear the good, because the good are a constant reproach to their consciences. The ungodly like religion in the same way that they like lions, either dead or behind bars; they fear religion when it breaks loose and begins to challenge their consciences."*

### A INSPIRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 3 FROM "THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS"

**Life:** *"Fear not that thy life shall come to an end, but rather fear that it shall never have a beginning."*  
St. John Henry Newman

# 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](http://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!

## ST. MARY'S LEGACY MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC

On September 16 & 17, a second collection will be taken in support of the Diocese's St. Mary's Legacy Mobile Medical Clinic that visits 8 medically underserved rural areas of East TN monthly providing healthcare and telehealth to the poor and uninsured. This "doctor office on wheels", is run by a small staff and the help of over 75 volunteer physicians, nurses, and community members who donate their time and talent to this great ministry. The Clinic provides primary health care, and access to advanced care through community partnerships. As an osteopathic physician, and the Clinic's Medical Director, Sr. Mary Lisa Renfer, RSM, DO provides a "whole-person" approach, which considers both the physical and mental needs of SMLC patients. To learn more, visit [www.SMLCares.com](http://www.SMLCares.com). Please be generous in supporting this great medical ministry.

## WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—8/27/2023

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time —Attendance: 167	
Sunday Offertory .....	\$ 2,524.00
Donation Box.....	10.00
Other Donations* .....	170.00
Total Donations for the Week.....	\$ 2,986.70
Year-to-Date Donations .....	\$ 29,380.39
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations .....	<u>32,055.59</u>
Year-to-Date Donation <b>Deficit**</b> .....	\$ <b>2,675.20</b>
<u>Other Donations Not in Budget</u>	
Maintenance Fund .....	\$ 15.00
Parish Charity.....	<u>0.00</u>
Total Non-Budget Donations .....	\$ 15.00

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

## 2023 SEASONS OF CREATION

The Season of Creation, an ecumenical observance embraced by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, begins with the *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation* on September 1 and ends with the *Feast of St. Francis of Assisi* on October 4. A calendar of events for the greater Knoxville/Alcoa area has been planned by several of the Care for Creation Ministries in the Diocese and is posted on the bulletin board.

## 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.

**PHOTOGRAPHY DATES AND TIMES:**

Week 1:	October 3 <sup>rd</sup> through October 6 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 - 7:30 PM
Week 2:	October 27 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 - 7:30 PM
	October 28 <sup>th</sup>	2:30 - 6:00 PM (No photos taken during Mass time)
	October 29 <sup>th</sup>	10:15 AM - 12:30 PM



**ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP**

## **Christmas in September Sale**

**ALL MERCHANDISE 15% OFF**

**9/2 – 9/30**

Including 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**



### **WES TEAM NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Next Meeting**—September 28 at Noon in Shea Hall; All are welcome! Lunch will be served.

**Pet Blessing**—September 30, 11:00 AM, Behind the PRC Building

**Fall Pot Luck**—October 8, 4:00 PM

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





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](mailto:JoAnneRA.726@gmail.com).

### Pilgrims, Pasta, Pumpkins and Prayer



An Autumn Art Retreat

For those who like to pray with their hands, we've got an all-star cast of presenters to guide you in making some neat craft items and learning a few skills you bring into your home. Interwoven throughout will be prayerful reflections on the harvest, thanksgiving, and the changing of the seasons. It's a great way to get-away, plus enjoy the Fall colors and sacred spaces at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, NC. The retreat is September 29-30. Visit [www.catholicconference.org/autumn](http://www.catholicconference.org/autumn),

email [info@catholicconference.org](mailto:info@catholicconference.org), or call 828.327.7441. Register now – space is limited to 25 people.