



OCTOBER 8, 2023  
27TH 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. 10/9 8:30 AM** Yvette Sturm†  
**TUES. 10/10 8:30 AM** Keith Kelly †  
**WED. 10/11** **NO MORNING MASS**  
**THURS. 10/12 8:30 AM** Poor Souls in Purgatory  
**FRIDAY 10/13 8:30 AM** People Needing Prayers  
**SAT. 10/14 4:00 PM** Brian Barker †  
**SUN. 10/15 9:00 AM** Theresa Messier †

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., Charles Jones

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** *In Memory of Kerry O'Brien & Michael O'Brien given by Mary O'Brien.* 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**

**1 Corinthians 10:16**

*The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?*

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>10/9</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Church &amp; Hall Cleaning</b>
<b>Tue</b>	<b>10/10</b>		
<b>Wed</b>	<b>10/11</b>		
<b>Thu</b>	<b>10/12</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>10/13</b>		
<b>Sat</b>	<b>10/14</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Vigil Mass</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>10/15</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Mass</b>



## DEACON'S NOTES

### 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The parable in today's gospel is a trilogy, a play in three acts, a drama that stretches back to the time of Abraham and Moses and forward into eternity. As followers of Christ, we play an important role in that great drama.

Here is the synopsis of the first two acts of this three-act play. Act one is set in ancient Israel. As the scenes unfold, we see God establishing a radically new relationship of love with the people of Israel-- a covenant of love, first with Noah, then with Abraham, and finally through Moses, a covenant with the people of Israel. It is a covenant wherein God says to the people of Israel: I will make with you a covenant that no other people can claim. I will be your God and you will be my people. Within that covenant, God's love would be constant, and the people would flourish in a land flowing with milk and honey, a land as rich and fruitful as the vineyard in the parable.

But we know what happened. The people forgot the covenant; they turned away from God and substituted foreign gods, idols; they neglected the poor and the stranger. To bring them back, God sent the prophets to warn them, to control them, even to threaten them. God sent the prophets, like the servants in the parable, to collect what was rightfully due to the Divine Landowner--the return of love from those who were the beneficiaries of love. But the prophets, like the servants, were uniformly rejected and mistreated. Jeremiah was even thrown into a dry well. Although they spoke for God, each of the Servant Prophets experienced rejection.

The second act of this play is also familiar to us. In this act, it is Jesus who is sent to the people of Israel to receive what is rightfully owing to God--the love of God's people. Everything Jesus did in His public ministry, the preaching, the miracles, the healing, all was intended to win back the love of the foolish tenants. But we know what happened. We know how the second act ends: Once again, the servant, who was God Incarnate, was rejected like the servants who went before him. Not only rejected; this Suffering Servant was betrayed, tortured, and killed. As the curtain falls on the second act, picture the Cross dominating the scene.

Now we come to the third act. Again, it is servants who play the leading role. But in this act, it is not the prophets of old who have the main role. It is you and me. We are now the servants sent by God to deliver to the Divine landlord, all the love, the devotion, the commitment that is owing. Each of us here today, Priest, Deacon, religious, layperson, each of us is a ministering servant. And I suppose at times we feel as rejected as the servants in the final act. The people we are sent to minister, do not appreciate us. We find ourselves unable to awaken in the tenants that excitement about God we had hoped to find when we first became servants.

How then do we reveal that it is Christ the servant acting in and through us? We do it by supporting one another. No servant can minister well alone. We need the support of other servants. We need the support of this community as it celebrates the Eucharist; we need the support of small Christian communities; we need the support of our families, strengthened by prayer, by scripture study, by retreats. Without that ongoing support, people will not recognize Jesus the servant in us.

My friends, we have an important role to play as servants. Let us pray that we will play our parts well.

## CATECHISM CORNER

Happy 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time! Today, we will be “discussing” the Fourth Commandment which is “Honor your father and your mother.” Next to God, those most deserving of honor and love are our parents; for next to God, no one else is more responsible for our life and knowledge of God than our parents. God creates; parents procreate.

This commandment obliges us to respect and obey our parents, or those who take the place of parents in our lives. It is God’s will that, after Him, our honor is owed to our parents. The commandment appears often in the Bible and involves four key actions: appreciate them, respect them, obey them, and care for them. (I understand not all people have had a positive/good relationship with their parents. Some have experienced physical abuse, emotional abuse or verbal abuse and for this the Church – which is you and I – is extremely sorry.) The CCC 2198 states “This commandment is expressed in positive terms of duties to be fulfilled. It introduces the subsequent commandments which are concerned with particular respect for life, marriage, earthly goods, and speech. It constitutes one of the foundations of the social doctrine of the Church.” The CCC paragraph 2217 further explains: As long as a child lives at home with his parents, the child should obey his parents in all that they ask of him when it is for his good or that of the family . . . But if a child is convinced in conscience that it would be morally wrong to obey a particular order, he must not do so. Obedience toward parents ceases with the emancipation of the children; not so respect, which is always owed to them.

Like the Third Commandment, regarding keeping holy the Lord’s day, this commandment is also disguised in positive terms, and not in the negative terms of “Thou shalt not.....” God made us to image Himself. God is a Trinity: a community of loving Persons. And for this reason, the father must be love – a provider and protector, like God the Father. The mother must radiate love in the family, like God the Holy Spirit in the Trinity. And the children should reflect the obedience of the Son of God to Mary and Joseph. This states that God meant for us to live in community. The family is the oldest institution in the world, established by God Himself in the Garden of Eden and preexists both Church and State. The State which exist, among other reasons, to support and strengthen marriage and the family. And when I write this, I mean that, the State should protect: the right to have a family and adequate means to support it; the right to bring up children in accordance with the family’s own traditions and religious and cultural values; and the right to housing suitable for proper family life.

The family is the very basic building block of society.....and, in my opinion, all you have to do is watch the “Nightly News.” It is discouraging, but not inevitable because the future of society is intimately bound up with the vitality of the family institution. St. John Paul the Great said, “Nothing that directly compromises the family can benefit society. On the other hand, every policy that promotes the family furthers social life.” To further explain: the Christian family constitutes a domestic church, for it is a place where faith, prayer, and love should bind its members together: A strong family leads to a healthy society and vigorous nation; and a holy family leads to a prosperous local and universal Church. I wish our state and national leaders would read my corner!

Please reflect on these words of St. Mother Teresa: “It is easy to love the people far away. It is not always east to love those close to us. Bring love into your home, for this is where our love for each other must start.” And she also said, “If you want to bring happiness to the whole world, go home and love your family.” Have a most wonderful week!



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The good news of this Gospel is that all we need to do is let God tend us and bring us to produce good fruit. All we need do is be faithful; God will take care of the rest.

**Please help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to bring the love and mercy of Jesus to those who feel left out and abandoned.**

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!



### SVDP OCTOBER "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"

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.**

## NEW YEAR'S RETREAT

Let a certified 'coach' guide you through some time-honored spiritual practices in this year's retreat, "Spiritual Exercises for the New Year." Enter the year spiritually renewed and well-equipped with some techniques to keep you spiritually fit throughout the year. In addition to engaging presentations, there'll be Mass, confession, Matins, Vespers, and Adoration. Plus time to simply reflect upon the New Year in our sacred spaces, enjoy the gas logs in our lounge, or explore the beautiful grounds of the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, NC. Two nights, December 30-January 1. As a special treat, there will be a New Year's Eve banquet with some traditional festivities. The last two years have sold out, so register now at [www.catholicconference.org/new-years](http://www.catholicconference.org/new-years). For more information email [info@catholicconference.org](mailto:info@catholicconference.org) or call 828.327.7441.

## WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—10/1/2023

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time —Attendance: 142

Sunday Offertory .....	\$ 3,275.00
Donation Box .....	3.00
Other Donations* .....	90.00
Donations for the Week .....	\$ 3,368.00

Year-to-Date Donations .....	\$ 45,866.20
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations.....	49,735.34
Year-to-Date Donation <b>Deficit**</b> .....	<b>\$ 3,869.44</b>

### Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund .....	\$ 705.00
Parish Charity .....	35.00
Total Non-Budget Donations .....	\$ 740.00

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

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



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 base-

ball 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.



## 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.



## *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.

### **REMAINING PHOTOGRAPHY DATES AND TIMES:**

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

### **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI COLUMBARIUM**

It has been several years since we've printed any information regarding our beautiful Columbarium which was installed in October 2019. There are a total of 96 niches in the Columbarium, each of which will hold two urns. To date, half of the niches have been sold.

The cost of a niche is currently \$2,500 which includes the two urns and a bronze nameplate. Cremation and interment service is not included in that fee. If you are interested and would like to get further information, Bob Eberhardt is chair of the Columbarium committee. He can be contacted at 630-542-9760 or [R\\_B\\_Eberhardt@comcast.net](mailto:R_B_Eberhardt@comcast.net).



### **PONTIFICAL COLLECTION FOR WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**

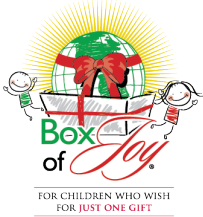
A second collection will be taken up on October 21 & 22 for World Mission Sunday. By baptism, all Catholics are called to participate in the mission of the Church and to share their faith as missionaries of the Gospel. This collection supports the pastoral and evangelizing programs and needs of nearly 1200 mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America. Funds are distributed in the Holy Father's name by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith—a Pontifical Mission Society. Pope Pius XI first instituted Mission Sunday for the whole Church with the first worldwide collection in 1927 in order to help emphasize our catholicity and universal solidarity in sharing in our common responsibility for evangelizing the world.



**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**