



NOVEMBER 12, 2023 32ND 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. 11/13 8:30 AM Brian Barker †
TUES. 11/14 8:30 AM Evelyn Provenzo †
WED. 11/15 **NO MORNING MASS**
THURS. 11/16 8:30 AM Joann Nieman †
FRIDAY 11/17 8:30 AM Poor Souls in Purgatory
SAT. 11/18 4:00 PM Jennifer Reed †
SUN. 11/19 9:00 AM Frank Cross †

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, Pat Sanders, Judy Sanders, Doreen Mancuso, Ann Sorvillo, Naomi Nwadike, Jerome Chris Owens, Christopher Kramer, Cam King, David Holmes, Amy Frink, Myra Montero, Robert Modisett, Tony Foster, Mary Sellers, Claire Cheadle, Kathy Janke, Charlotte Fernandez, Elise Martin, Paula Watson, Mike Lauer, Tom Beasley, Donna Ashley, Savannah Bishop, Bruce Haverkos, Mike Scully, Paul Fain, Joyce Fain, Normand Messier, Jr., Charles Jones, Kelly Keran, Lori O'Toole

SANCTUARY CANDLE *In Honor of Father Dan Whitman given by St. Francis CCW.*

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 Oliver & Betty Bryant 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

Psalm 116:12-13

“How can I repay the Lord for all the great good done for me? I will raise the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.”

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	11/13	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	11/14		
Wed	11/15		
Thu	11/16		
Fri	11/17		
Sat	11/18	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	11/19	9:00 AM	Mass



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP
 OPEN FOR BUSINESS
 AFTER WEEKEND MASSES

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



In Matthew's Gospel today, Jesus gives us his Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids. In ancient Hebrew tradition, the bride and her bridesmaids wait at the bride's home for the groom to arrive. He typically arrives in the evening, when it's dark, and then they go singing and dancing to his home for the wedding celebration.

In this story, the groom is delayed and arrives very late. Five wise bridesmaids are well-prepared, with their lamps ready to go. But the other five have been wasting their time and don't have any oil. So, they get left behind.

The wise virgins were well prepared to welcome the bridegroom with enough oils in their lamps; the foolish virgins were ill-prepared and did not make adequate preparation to welcome the bridegroom; what is the significance of lamp and oil which Jesus speaks about? The lamp reminds us there are three categories of Christians:

- **THOSE WHOSE LIGHTS SHINE BRIGHTLY:** Some Christians have their lamps shining very brightly and everyone can see that light. Those whose lights are shining brightly are those who are constantly aware that they are in the world but not of the world; these Christians are very focused in their love of God and neighbor and are willing to use all that they have for the promotion of God's kingdom in the world. In addition, they see each day as God's special gift and as the last day, which they have on earth.
- **THOSE WHOSE LIGHTS ARE DIM:** There are those whose lamps are very dim. The light is burning but the light is so weak that it is difficult to tell whether it is extinguished or still burning. This set of Christians are baptized, made their First Holy Communion, confirmed and wedded in the Church but they do not practice their faith actively and so their lives are dominated so much by material things. Such people sometimes wait for the eleventh hour before they begin making preparations for heaven.
- **THOSE WITHOUT OIL:** Finally, there are people whose lamps have no oil and whose light is completely extinguished. They are people who were once Christians but presently they do not believe in anything outside the material world. For these people, the parable of being ready and prepared for life after death makes no sense and the challenge of keeping their lamps burning is meaningless. It was Mother Teresa who said: 'To keep a lamp burning, we must continue to put oil in it.' This is to say that our faith can continue to be alive and thrive only when we add the oil of love in it. When we pray to the Holy Spirit we ask him to enkindle in our hearts the fire of divine love. The wise virgins in the parable appear very mean and uncharitable, as they did not share their oil with the foolish ones. The point that Jesus wishes to make here is there are things in life, which we cannot borrow, and those things are virtue and integrity. We cannot borrow the goodness of our parents, brothers, and sisters to gain entry into heaven; rather it is our level of preparation here on earth that prepares us for the life hereafter.

CATECHISM CORNER

Thou shalt not covet
thy neighbor's wife

Exodus 20:17

Happy Sunday, St. Francis! Today's Corner will highlight the Ninth Commandment "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife." First, we must understand what "covet" means. To covet means to want someone or something wrongfully or unlawfully. It is wrong because desire leads to action. As you think, so you act. Bad desires and bad thoughts will very likely lead to bad actions. So, the ninth commandment forbids in thought and desire what the sixth commandment forbids in act. (Sixth Commandment is "You shall not commit adultery.") Before I go on, both this commandment and the Sixth Commandment, while specific in its wording, is meant to be broad in its application. It applies to both men and women.

Impure thoughts and desires arise in our minds and hearts like weeds in a garden. Generally, in the beginning they are temptations. There are four steps to a temptation: first, there is the sensation, then the reaction, then the realization, and finally the decision. Here's an example I've heard used: Suppose a mother is taking her child through a toy section of a large store before Christmas. Her child sees a toy he wants (the sensation). He tugs at his mother's dress, stops her, points to the toy, and says "mommy, I want that toy" (the reaction). The mother looks at the toy, considers the price, knows her own pocketbook (the realization). Then she decides whether or not to get the toy for him (the decision). Up to the time of the decision, all the actions are a temptation. Remember the feelings of step two (the reaction) are not a sin – no matter how strong they may be. Feelings are not moral. Feeling good doesn't make you good; feeling bad doesn't make you bad. St. Francis de Sales said: "To feel is not the sin, but to consent." He also said: "It is a very good sign if our enemy knocks and storms at the door, for it shows he is not where he wishes to be." God permits temptations, because temptations can strengthen us.

I always look to the saints for the temptations of this world. I came across this: St. Catherine of Siena had a terrible temptation to impurity. After the storm had passed, she complained, "Where were you, Lord, when my spirit was shaken by the spasm of temptation?" God answered, "Catherine, I was deep in your heart, taking delight in your resistance and strengthening you in the struggle." WOW!

Consider the analogy I mentioned in the previous paragraph about weeds in a garden. So, you have a beautiful rose garden, but weeds start to invade. Both the roses and weeds are plants, both are nurtured by the same soil and sun. Our thoughts and desires are like weeds and roses. Bad thoughts and bad desires, are the weeds; good thoughts and good desires, are portrayed by the roses. The choice is ours: weedy thoughts and desires or rosy ones. We can dwell in unloveliness and unfruitfulness, or we can dwell with joy and achievement. We can make our minds and hearts a weed patch or a flower garden. We are the gardeners....

I pray you have a "rosy" week St. Francis! St. Catherine of Siena and St. Francis de Sales, pray for us! Please have a joy filled week and please continue to pray for peace in the Middle East.

NATIONAL COLLECTION FOR THE CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



The Catholic Campaign for Human Development collection will be held on November 18 & 19 to help promote and support non-Catholic community-controlled, self-help organizations and education programs. Envelopes are available in the vestibule. Please be generous.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel Jesus challenges us to "stay awake" by taking time to seriously look at ourselves, the priorities of our lives, and how we are growing spiritually.

Ask yourself "What would Jesus Christ do?" and then put your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul poor box so that those who are suffering will be able to celebrate Thanksgiving.

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!

No Meeting November 15!

Thank You for your continued support of SVDP!

SVDP NOVEMBER "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"



Dish Soap & Sponges



WES TEAM MEETING - NOVEMBER 14

Our next WES Team Meeting will be this TUESDAY, November 14 at noon in Shea Hall. We will be finalizing plans for the Christmas Party and deciding on events to plan for next year. Lunch will be served. ALL ARE WELCOME!



ANGEL GIVING TREE 2023

It's time again for our annual Angel Tree to benefit the foster children of Blount County. Please consider taking a tag (or 2) from the tree in Shea Hall and fulfilling the wishes listed.

We also offer another option for participating. Please consider buying a gift card or writing a check in any amount of your choosing. Please make checks out to Blount County Foster Association. Checks and gift cards can be mailed to: Laura Rapien at 126 Ridge Rd., Maryville, TN 37803 or dropped by the office.

Gifts should be returned to Shea Hall by December 3rd. Gift cards and checks should also be mailed or dropped off in time to be received by December 3rd. The children appreciate your generosity. Any questions, please call Laura at 865-983-3214.

Finding the Voice in Silence

02

December

Advent Retreat with Deacon Jim Bello

Call the Office to reserve a seat!

8:00 AM	Registration and light continental breakfast
9:00 AM	Adoration/First talk
11:30 AM	Lunch (provided)
12:30 PM	Second talk
1:30 PM	Break for table talk
2:00 PM	Third talk
3:00 PM	Questions and answers/ Sacrament of Reconciliation available before Mass
4:00 PM	Mass

PRAYER BOWLS & PYSANKY



An Art as Spiritual Therapy Retreat
January 12-13, 2024

The latest Art as Spiritual Therapy Retreat will be held January 12-13 at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, NC. It would be a great time to de-stress from the holidays, and with Lent just a few weeks away, a great way to enter the season with new ways to pray. Upon departing, you will not only feel renewed in spirit but will also have some keepsakes to put near your prayer-chair at home.

In order for every person to get individual attention, the retreat is limited to 25 participants. You can get more information or register at <https://catholicconference.org/sacred-art/>.



SUNDAY MORNINGS COFFEE, DONUTS, AND FELLOWSHIP

A clipboard with sign-up sheets for our Sunday morning coffee, etc. is available on the wall in Shea Hall next to the bulletin board 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. If you have questions, please contact Donna Czerniewski who is coordinating this ministry.



IN NOVEMBER WE REMEMBER

We honor the dead during the month of November. Our *Names of the Dead* book will be placed on the tables in the St. Padre Pio/St. Clare alcove in the church for the month of November.

BOOK OF THE DEAD: Please feel free to write the names of loved ones who have died **this past year** (November 1, 2022 - November 1, 2023) in the book so that the repose of their souls may be prayed over.

REMEMBRANCE TABLES: Please bring framed photos of loved ones who have died (not restricted to this past year) and place the photos on the remembrance tables in the church alcove.

The book and the framed photos will remain in church throughout the month of November. The names written in the book will be honored (collectively) at each weekend Mass through the month of Novem-



Give yourselves a huge pat on the back! We have achieved 85% participation upon completion of our photography sessions for the new pictorial directory! The pictures are available on

<http://www.cheryns.smugmug.com>

Scroll down to “galleries” and select “St. Francis Directory 2023.” If you would like to purchase a photo, select an option from the menu on the left of the photo and follow the instructions (a printed 8x12 photo is only \$6.25 and a downloaded photo is only \$.01—ONE PENNY!).

Hopefully the new directories will be available some time in January, 2024. We are still looking for recent photos (from the last couple of years) of St. Francis of Assisi Parish life that you might be willing to share in our new pictorial directory! We are looking for pictures of any church gathering that celebrates the family life of this parish! If you have some pictures you would like to share, please email them (and any questions you might have) to JoAnneRA.726@gmail.com.

SHARE THE WARMTH



The St. Mary's Legacy Clinic (SMLC) is collecting donations for men, women, and children to distribute to their patients in December and January. Donations of new or gently used winter clothing (coats, sweaters, pajamas, gloves/mittens, scarves, hats, snow gear, socks, and blankets) may be dropped off at the St. Mary Legacy Clinic or Chancery offices from now through November 30th.

ADDITIONALLY, DONATIONS MAY BE DROPPED OFF IN THE SMLC DONATION BOX IN SHEA HALL AND A PARISHIONER WILL DELIVER THEM TO SMLC.

Contact Rebecca Pipkins at rpikins@smlcares.com or 865-212-5570 with any questions. Donations will be distributed at the mobile clinic sites in December.

Because We Care

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—11/5/2023

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time —Attendance: 165

Sunday Offertory	\$ 4,650.40
Donation Box	40.00
Holy Days (All Saints)	664.00
Other Donations*	240.00
Donations for the Week	\$ 5,594.40

Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 66,299.60
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations	67,415.69
Year-to-Date Donation Deficit**	\$ 1,116.09

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$ 890.00
Parish Charity	0.00
Total Non-Budget Donations	\$ 890.00

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

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

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY—DECEMBER 10; 4 -7 PM



Our annual parish Christmas Party will be held **Sunday, December 10th at 4 PM**. This year we are holding the party at **The Barn Event Center of the Smokies**. Come enjoy a buffet style meal of Rosemary Chicken, Black Angus Roast Beef Au Jus, Spring Mix Green Salad, Roasted Red Potatoes with garlic & parsley, Seasonal Vegetable Medley, Rolls, and Cobbler with Ice Cream. A wine bar and cheese platter will be provided for the social time before the food is served. Entertainment after dinner will include Christmas Music and other fun activities

Sign-up sheets are available in Shea Hall. You may also make a reservation by contacting the church office at stfrancistownsend7717@gmail.com or 865-448-6070 by **November 27**.

The cost per person is \$50. Full payment will be due to the church by November 28. You may hand your check to Kathy Meyerkord at mass, drop it off at the office or place it in the collection basket in an envelope marked Christmas Party .

The Barn
EVENT CENTER OF THE SMOKIES