



NOVEMBER 26, 2023 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH
7717 RIVER ROAD - TOWNSEND, TN 37882
865 - 448 - 6070

WEBSITE: ST.FRANCISTOWNSEND.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.	11/27	8:30 AM	Joann Nieman †
TUES.	11/28	8:30 AM	Brian Barker †
WED.	11/29		NO MORNING MASS
THURS.	11/30	9:00 AM	Michael Harwell †
FRIDAY	12/1	8:30 AM	Raymond Simons †
SAT.	12/2	4:00 PM	Joann Nieman †
SUN.	12/3	9:00 AM	Joseph † & Gwendolyn † Gagliano

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

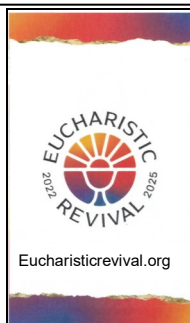
Haverkos, Mike Scully, Paul Fain, Joyce Fain, Normand Messier, Jr., Charles Jones, Kelly Keran, Lori O'Toole, Raymond Payne

SANCTUARY CANDLE 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: No Sanctuary Flowers during Advent.

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 Francis of Assisi (1181 or 1182-1226)

“O sublime humility! O humble sublimity! That the Lord of the whole universe, God and the Son of God, should humble himself like this and hide under the form of a little bread, for our salvation.”

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	11/27	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning Advent Retreat RSVP Due
Tue	11/28		Christmas Party Payment Due
Wed	11/29		
Thu	11/30		
Fri	12/1	9:00 AM	Adoration
Sat	12/2	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	12/3	9:00 AM	Mass

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING



This solemnity in honor of Christ the King brings our liturgical year to a close. Next week is Advent and the start of a new liturgical year. The Feast of Christ the King used to be celebrated on the last Sunday of October before the Feast of All Saints to display Christ as King of all the Saints. Now, this feast ends our liturgical year. This Sunday is dominated by the familiar parable of the sheep and the goats, the very last parable Jesus tells in Matthew's Gospel. It is a grand and sweeping scene in which Jesus is pictured as a king

and judge. It describes a moment when all the nations will be gathered together, and everyone will be divided into two groups.

When all of the human race gathers for the great judgment, that is, cave men and women, early American Indians and Eskimos, ancient peoples of Africa, Asians, Aborigines in Australia, people in Palm Springs and Paris, people in Toronto, Mexico City, Nigeria and Saint Petersburg, athletes, rock stars, lawyers, manual laborers, teachers, airline pilots, computer programmers, when everyone is gathered for the great judgment, it is Jesus of Nazareth whom they will face. The entire human race, from the first person to the last, will have to appear before the risen Christ.

We cannot separate Christ from his church. How people respond to the church, to Christians is their response to Christ. The Church is the concrete presence of Christ in every age. Our fidelity or indifference to the Church is fidelity or indifference to Christ. Of course, for those who have never known the Church, the test for them is how they respond to any person in need. That is how our tradition has applied this parable to all of us.

This parable is not about philanthropy, but about judgment. Separating out the phony from the real. The sign that we are truly renewed by Christ, that our loyalty to him is genuine, that our prayer is authentic, that the Holy Spirit dwells in us, that we are following the light given us, is not what we say, but what we do. Specifically, have we cared for the least among us through the corporal or spiritual works of mercy.

This is a truly majestic and challenging parable. It is, first of all, about Jesus Christ, the judge of history, all of history, and every person's history. It is also about responsibility for another, in body or in spirit as the most reliable thermometer of our loyalty to Christ. It is finally about the stark truth that we will be separated from God, not only for doing wrong but also for doing nothing. "Whatever you do to the least of these, you are doing to me. What you fail to do for them, you fail to do for Me." With these words, the teaching of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel comes to a close.

They are words that are both comforting and disturbing because they teach us that the proof of how much we love the Lord, of how much he is alive in us, is found not in spiritual theatrics, but in how we treat others around us; some say that it is hard to see Christ in others. Maybe so. Then, if we can't see Christ in others, we can be Christ to others. Are we Christ to others? Are we Christ to anybody? The answer to that question tells the truth about us, about the depth of our faith, and about our eternal destiny. Are we Christ to others? Are we Christ to anybody? If not, then this Sunday carries not only a word of warning but also a word of hope. Advent is right around the corner with the hope of a new beginning.

CATECHISM CORNER

Good and happy Sunday St. Francis Parish! I would like to share a couple of “tidbits” I learned while re-searching the Ten Commandments: There is no numerical division of the Commandments in the Books of Moses (remember the five Books of Moses are: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy), but the commands are distinctly tenfold, and are found almost identical in both sources. The order, too, is the same, except for the final prohibitions pronounced against sexual desire/lust. Deuteronomy’s order is generally adopted in preference to Exodus. A confusion, however, exists in the numbering, which is due to a difference of opinion concerning the initial teaching on Divine worship. The system of numeration found in Catholic Bibles is based on the Hebrew text and was made by St. Augustine (fifth century) in his book of “Questions on Exodus” and was adopted by the Council of Trent and is followed also by most German Lutherans.

The early Christian church received this catechetical tradition from the Church Fathers, especially Augustine. He relied heavily on the Decalogue as presented by Moses in Deuteronomy 5. Thus, until the late Middle Ages, children memorized the commandments in the order as we still know it from the Catechism. Even after the Reformation, Lutherans and Catholics agreed on this enumeration and arrangement. In contrast, the Decalogue’s presentation in Exodus shows an earlier cultural mindset in putting the wife and household objects as common possessions together under one command against covetousness in (Ex. 20:17). Moses, in separating the wife from household objects with a separate word for coveting in Deuteronomy 5:21, creates a new dignity for marriage, monogamy, and women (thank you!) that corresponds to the understanding reflected in the New Testament and in subsequent Church teaching (especially the writings of Pope John Paul II). Thus it seems to me the Christian tradition was correct in making the end of the Decalogue two separate commandments by following Deuteronomy 5.

Calvin and other Reformers, relying more on Exodus 20 and its presentation of the Decalogue, and wanting to make a strike against the Catholic Church, numbered the commandments in a different way. Based on this new sixteenth-century re-presentation of the Decalogue, many denominations in America now teach the commandments this way. While Jewish versions of the commandments follow Exodus 20 primarily, their enumeration does not exactly follow that of the Reformers. Whose version should prevail? I don’t know about you, but I’m thinking the original by the Church Fathers are the correct ones!

Jesus teaches us that there is a relationship between doing good and eternal life – that this good is determined by a norm of morality outside ourselves, by God Himself. This norm God expressed in the Old Testament by the Ten Commandments and in the New Testament by the Sermon on the Mount. The rule is simple: to enter into eternal life, keep the commandments!

Your life is a “cornucopia” of opportunity. (This analogy fits right in with the holiday we just celebrated!) Let me say that again. Your life is full of opportunity, no matter your age or walk of life. Do you believe it? The more we honor the gifts God has given us, the more we honor Him. Today, you have the chance to boldly put your faith on display or to become a better version. Our Patron Saint, St Francis of Assisi, gave some very good advice when he said: “Preach the Gospel at all times and if necessary use words.” Recognize your gifts, appreciate them, and use them wisely!

I’ll send you off with a quote from Matthew Kelly’s book *A Call to Joy*:

“Sometimes we feel that there is a void in our lives. We associate this void with a lack of happiness. We tell ourselves, ‘If only I could do this, or have that, or if only I could be that, then I would be happy, and this void would disappear.’ We are wrong. The problem is we are forever focusing on all the things we cannot do, all the things we do not have, and all the people that we are not. Joy is the fruit of appreciation.”

I appreciate each and every one of you! Have a wonderful and joyful week filled with gratitude for the many gifts from our God!



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today as we celebrate Christ the King, we hear Jesus say: "...whatever you did for one of the least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Knowing that we find the face of Christ in the poor, on November 16, with the assistance of our parishioners and IGA, we were able to distribute 80 Thanksgiving Food Baskets to our Neighbors, the Foster Families of Blount County and Townsend Elementary School. 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 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 NOVEMBER "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"



Dish Soap & Sponges

CALENDARS FOR SVDP NEIGHBORS IN NEED



Each year, St. Vincent de Paul gives our Neighbors in Need calendars along with their Christmas Food Basket. If you have any 2024 Calendars that you will not be using, please leave them on the back counter in Shea Hall and we will collect them for our Christmas giveaway.

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

December 02

Advent Retreat with Deacon Jim Bello

Call the Office by November 27th to reserve a seat!

- 8:00 AMRegistration and light continental breakfast
9:00 AMAdoration/First talk
11:30 AMLunch (provided)
12:30 PMSecond talk
1:30 PMBreak for table talk
2:00 PMThird talk
3:00 PMQuestions and answers/ Sacrament of Reconciliation
available before Mass
4:00 PMMass



FIRST FRIDAY EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Friday, December 1

Mass: 8:30 AM

Adoration: 9 AM—Noon

Benediction: Noon

If you are interested in committing to a Holy Hour for First Friday Eucharistic Adoration, please contact Jackie Wagner at 330-807-8663.

2ND COLLECTION - RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Please be generous in your support of the National Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious on December 9 & 10. This collection assists religious institutes in providing for the retirement needs of senior religious priests, brothers, and sisters. The fund also helps religious institutes plan and manage their retirement needs and programs.



Photos: Jim Judkis. ©2023 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Used with permission.

Please be generous in helping to care for our priests and religious who dedicated their lives to caring for us and who are now in need of our support.

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 November.

Congratulations!

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.



ST. CLARE GIFT
SHOP



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SALE



Starting December 2, we are selling all items within the gift shop at 15% off. This sale will continue through December 31. The gift shop is open before and after the 4 pm Saturday and the 9 am Sunday Masses. In addition, it will be open on December 12 and 14 from 9 am until 2 pm. You may also call the office to make an appointment. Please note that this sale does not include any of the items on the Smokies Crafts table (Nativities, Cabins and other locally made items).

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—11/19/2023

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time —Attendance: 163

Sunday Offertory	\$ 2,662.00
Donation Box	45.00
Holy Days	0.00
Other Donations*	55.00
Donations for the Week	\$ 2,762.00

Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 72,649.60
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations.....	74,487.71
Year-to-Date Donation Deficit**	\$ 1,838.11

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$ 315.00
Parish Charity	0.00
Catholic Campaign for Human Dev.	669.00
Total Non-Budget Donations	\$ 984.00

* 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 the return of our **Ornament Exchange game**. Please bring a wrapped, non-breakable ornament if you wish to play.

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. Make checks payable to St. Francis of Assisi. You may hand your check to Kathy Meyer-kord at mass, drop it off at the office or place it in the collection basket in an envelope

The Barn
EVENT CENTER OF THE SMOKIES