



DECEMBER 10, 2023 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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 12/11 8:30 AM Eunice LaGrave[†]
Tue 12/12 8:30 AM Ralph Stinard[†]
Wed 12/13 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 12/14 8:30 AM Clarence Keeven[†]
Fri 12/15 8:30 AM Alfonzo Cambron Esquivel[†]
Sat 12/16 4:00 PM Charles Fiorella[†]
Sun 12/17 9:00 AM Alfonzo Cambron Esquivel[†]

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, Bruce Haverkos, Mike Scully, Paul Fain, Joyce Fain, Normand Messier, Jr., Charles Jones, Kelly Keran, Lori O'Toole, Raymond Payne, Sue Ann Tippitt, Charles Tippitt, Emmanuel Nwadike, Julie Schirack

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. Paschal Baylon (1540-1592)

“God is as really present in the consecrated Host as He is in the glory of Heaven.”

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon 12/11 9:00 AM Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue 12/12
Wed 12/13
Thu 12/14
Fri 12/15
Sat 12/16 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
Sun 12/17 9:00 AM Mass

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT



"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas." Those are the words of a popular song from back in the day. But Christmas these days is becoming so crowded! Parking lots are filled with cars; stores are filled with shoppers; the ads on TV and streaming services are multiplying; it seems that a lot of shopping is going on. Christmas has become very crowded.

And so has the manger scene: slowly as the nativity scenes start to appear here and there, we see the familiar figures of Mary and Joseph, of course, but also shepherds, cattle, the wise men, and an assortment of other farm animals.

But new figures from our popular culture have slipped into the picture (we can see them in many a front yard): Santa and Rudolph and the other reindeer, the little drummer boy, Frosty the Snowman, the Grinch, Scrooge and Tiny Tim, and assorted Muppets.

With all this Christmas crowding at the Manger there was one figure that our culture always leaves out. You won't find this person in any Christmas stores, not even in a religious goods store. Never on any Christmas cards, but this person is crucial to an honest Christmas.

The great missing person of Christmas is John the Baptist.

We don't receive many Christmas cards with John the Baptist's words about repentance on them, and there aren't many Christmas songs about John the Baptist. But the church places him center stage on this second Sunday of Advent because John the Baptist is the very voice of Advent, the voice that points to the coming of the Lord Jesus to transform our life.

The message of John the Baptist to all of us is to prepare.

Site preparation. It's very important before any building is started. Without proper site preparation, a building will lean, sink, or even collapse. Spiritual site preparation is what John the Baptist is calling us to do.

Are we willing to do the site preparation? Are we willing to get rid of the potholes and bumps in our life? What are we willing to give up in order to prepare for solid spiritual construction in our lives?

In the middle of this crowded season, let's make room for John the Baptist and his message of repentance because he keeps us real.

He reminds us that we should be getting ready not just for another holiday season, but to renew our lives in the power of Christ by getting rid of the obstacles that block our full experience of the Lord's grace and power in our lives. John the Baptist's message of repentance carries the promise of a new life and a new future in Christ that is now open to each one of us.

With John the Baptist, Christmas will not be just another holiday season, but a healing season as well. Amen.

CATECHISM CORNER

Dear St. Francis of Assisi, “**PEACE** be with you”.

As we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent, I am going to quote Pope Francis. “May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and **peace** to the hearts of all men and women.”

Our second candle represents **PEACE** and is often called the Bethlehem Candle. Like the first candle it is also purple. The **PEACE** candle reminds us of Mary and Joseph’s journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus.

Building on the **HOPE** (Prophecy Candle), this second candle is telling us there might be **PEACE** on earth because Jesus is coming, and so is His kingdom of **PEACE**.

With all the current division and destruction in our world today, I **HOPE** this message of **PEACE** reaches everyone who is suffering with war and hatred, so please remember that Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas and the long years waiting for the birth of Jesus.

As you can see, each candle builds on the previous one. Again I say to all of you: **PEACE** be with you. I am enjoying writing about the Advent Wreath and the meaning of the candles, I **HOPE**, dear parish family, that you are enjoying reading about it. Next week will be very special as we enter the liturgical color for **JOY**.

Many Advent Blessings,
Yvonne Peychal



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.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (865-312-0141) so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.

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 DECEMBER "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"



Laundry Detergent and Softener Sheets



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP



**ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SALE
15% OFF**



Come shop at the St. Clare Gift Shop during our Advent/Christmas Sale. We are well stocked with necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, rosaries and statues for gifts or for yourself. All items within the gift shop will be sold at 15% off (tax included). 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, the shop 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).

DEACON JIM'S CONTACT INFO

Deacon Jim Schmall has asked that we include his contact information in the bulletin.

1621 Hughes Loop
Maryville, TN 37803-4223
junglejim1908@gmail.com
901-493-2123 Cell

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP

Anyone interested in hosting Sunday morning coffee can sign up on the clipboard on the wall in Shea Hall next to the bulletin board. Hosting duties include providing a small assortment of pastries (donuts, cupcakes, muffins, scones, danishes, etc) setting up, cleaning up, and taking out the trash. If you have questions, please contact Donna Czerniewski who is coordinating this ministry.

YEAR END FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Thank you to everyone who has been donating so faithfully throughout the year.

- **Christmas Collection:** This year half of the Christmas Collection will be given to the Diocese.
- **Cut-Off for Year-End Donations:** Please note that any donations for 2023 must be either postmarked or in our possession by 12/31/23. Giving your Solemnity of Mary donation at the Sunday Mass on 12/31 will be recorded as a 2023 donation.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT SERVICES

A collection to assist Catholic Charities of East TN Office of Immigrant Services will be taken at the Masses celebrated at St. Francis on December 16 & 17.

The Office of Immigrant Services is a DOJ recognized law office that provides immigration legal services to immigrants and refugees. It offers legal assistance with family reunification, adjustment of status for refugees and asylees, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) renewals, humanitarian services under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and more. Your gift will help Catholic Charities in their important work throughout our diocese.



WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—12/3/2023

1st Sunday in Advent —Attendance: 131

Sunday Offertory.....	\$ 5,311.00
Donation Box	0.00
Holy Days	0.00
Other Donations*	2100.00
Donations for the Week	\$ 5,521.00

Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 80,006.60
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations.....	81,559.73
Year-to-Date Donation Deficit**	\$ 1,553.13

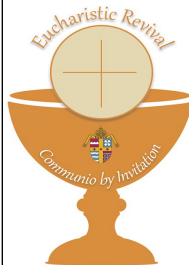
Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$ 978.00
Parish Charity	0.00
Total Non-Budget Donations	\$ 978.00

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

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

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS PILGRIMAGE



Join other pilgrims from the Diocese of Knoxville on a pilgrimage to the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis **July 17-24, 2024.**

The diocesan pilgrimage will include round trip transportation, a four-night hotel stay, and admission for all Eucharistic Congress events, speakers, and the closing Mass. There is also a tickets only option, which excludes transportation and lodging. Buses will depart from Knoxville on July 17, 2024 and return on July, 21, 2024.

The cost and other details can be found at Dioknox.org/Revival, by email at Revival@Dioknox.org, or by phone at 423-596-0181.



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.

DECEMBER MASS SCHEDULE



Saturday, December 23	4:00 pm	4th Sunday in Advent Vigil Mass
Sunday, December 24	9:00 am	4th Sunday in Advent Mass
	4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Mass
Monday, December 25	9:00 am	Christmas Day Mass
		(OFFICE CLOSED)
Tuesday, December 26	8:30 am	Mass
Wednesday, December 27	No Morning	Mass
Thursday, December 28	8:30 am	Mass
Friday, December 29	8:30 am	Mass
Saturday, December 30	4:00 pm	Vigil Mass: Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Sunday, December 31	9:00 am	Mass: Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph
Monday, January 1	8:30 am	Mass: Solemnity of Mary (Not a Holy Day of Obligation)
Tuesday, January 2		Return to normal mass times





ANGEL TREE SUCCESS!!!

The Angel Tree was quite successful this year. Thank you to all of our parishioners who helped with this project. This effort is organized by the Blount County Foster Parent Association, a non-profit organization for Foster, Kinship and Adoptive Families which provides information and resources for all current and future foster parents. There were 44 tags taken from the tree. Each child had 2 tags so 22 children will have a special Christmas thanks to the generosity of our parishioners.

A special thank you to Laura Rapien for all her efforts organizing this. She has been a foster parent for 22 years and the Angel Tree was already in existence when she began fostering. Each year she and her daughters place the tags on the tree, then collect the gifts and deliver them so they can all be organized. An entire gym floor gets filled with presents for the foster children!



KARM DONATIONS BENEFIT SVDP FOOD PANTRY



Did you know that your donations to KARM can benefit our food pantry "Neighbors in Need"? With Christmas on its way, you can take all the items you are cleaning out of your closets to make room for new stuff and donate them at any of the KARM Locations. Tell them that these donations are to benefit St. Francis of Assisi—Townsend. SVDP then receives gift cards from KARM which we give to our neighbors for purchasing clothing and other items. We have been getting \$100 to \$150 in gift cards each quarter so your donations greatly help. Thank you for helping us by doing this.

FINDING THE VOICE IN SILENCE ADVENT RETREAT

Our first Advent Retreat was attended by about 20 people from St. Francis and Our Lady of Fatima Parishes. Deacon Jim Bello presented the retreat in a manner which allowed us to absorb and reflect on how to find silence in this busy season. After a light breakfast, we began with 15 minutes of silent adoration. Following that, he presented his topic in a relaxed manner which allowed all present time to reflect. It was a great way to enter into the Advent Season. Thank you Julie for planning and facilitating this event!