



DECEMBER 31, 2023 HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

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	1/1	8:30 AM	St. Francis of Assisi Parishioners
Tue	1/2	8:30 AM	
Wed	1/3		NO MORNING MASS
Thu	1/4	8:30 AM	Mark Shaw †
Fri	1/5	8:30 AM	Sue Ann Tippitt
Sat	1/6	4:00 PM	Sherril French †
Sun	1/7	9:00 AM	Derek Schiefer †

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, Kay Walker

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 Pio of Pietrelcina
(Padre Pio)
(1887-1968)**

“A thousand years of enjoying human glory is not worth even an hour spent sweetly communing with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.”

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	1/1	8:30 AM	Solemnity of Mary Mass
Tue	1/2	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Wed	1/3		
Thu	1/4		
Fri	1/5	9:00 AM	Adoration
Sat	1/6	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	1/7	9:00 AM	Mass



PASTOR'S NOTES

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Ten years ago, I had the opportunity to attend the World's Family Encounter in Mexico City. More than ten thousand people gathered together, to discuss the then, situation of the family in the world. There were representatives of the Hierarchy of the Church, Government, and families from all the world.

During two weeks, we heard many different opinions, and statistics about families in the world. From all I heard there, there were two phrases that still ring in my ear: "There is no future without the family", "If we want to save humanity, we need to save the family", and I would add another: "If we want to save the family, we have to save the Sacrament of Marriage"

On this Sunday, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. The focus today is on the family. This Sunday would be important to pay attention to all of the readings. Taken together they better express the meaning of this feast.

Following Christmas, there is an entire week of liturgical feasts called an Octave. The feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr (model of love for enemies and fearless witness of the faith) was on December 26. The feast of John the Apostle and Evangelist is celebrated on December 27. The feast of the Holy innocents, the children killed by Herod, occurs on December 28. Other martyrs' feasts are celebrated in the remaining days of the week.

Today's passage in the book of Sirach offers a commentary of the Fifth Commandment – to honor one's parents. When one follows this commandment, a multitude of sins are forgotten. Family was a very important reality for Israel. So important that some scholars believe that the unity and lasting Jewish culture relies on the unity of their families. The easiest way to destroy a culture is by destroying the family unity; the Jewish culture has survived for more than eight thousand years. The clan, the family, the tribe, the extended family, the people of God, all represented a form of family that was in covenant relationship with Yahweh; a covenant relationship requires a great respect and care for one another.

Psalms 128 insists that the prosperity of family and society begins with a basic fear of the Lord. Prosperity and harmony as inter- changeable terms are possible only when a person lives in submission to God's will, loves God with heart and soul, and extends that love to others. All who do what is upright in God's eyes will be blessed with many children, contrary to our time where having many children is seen as a sign of ignorance or irresponsibility, even some people consider it disgraceful.

The importance of the family cannot be understated or underemphasized. The family is where we discover what it means to be human, what are our strengths and weaknesses; where we experience love and forgiveness; where we learn about relationships, unity, sacrifice, loving others, accepting others; where we learn values, attitudes, trust; where we learn how to handle stress and how to be responsible. Family is where we learn how to get along with one another. All these important learning tasks are hopefully learned in a family that is relatively healthy. By "relatively healthy," I mean none of our families are perfect. The success of a society depends on the health of the family. That creates a big burden for families to carry. It also puts a big burden on society to care about the family and to foster healthy families.

Today's gospel presents us the Holy family of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus as the example to follow. The feast of the holy Family lifts up the family of Nazareth as a model for struggling Christian families. Today's Liturgy is a crucial beacon of hope for contemporary family systems. It serves as a reminder to live in the mystery of God's revelation in our lives, even when family experiences seem to prove the contrary. In making Galilee home, the Holy Family chose to live on the margins. In Galilee we find Jesus, who not only understood the difficulties of family life, but surely experienced them himself. As they chose to live on the margins, we are invited to not only care for the marginalized but move to the margins ourselves. And, as we find rejection in our lives, in Galilee we can find welcome, and life, in Christ Jesus. Mary and Joseph serve as models who were willing to accept the ambiguity that life always presents. They remind us that if we ponder the marvels of God in our hearts and watch God's plan unfold in our lives, we will look back in our lives and discern the mighty hand of God in even the most trying situations.

CATECHISM CORNER

Merry Christmas!! – because the liturgical season of Christmas is still going on! Christmas begins with the vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

I wish to begin by thanking Yvonne Peychal for filling in for me and not hesitating to “take the helm” during the Season of Advent! I truly appreciate you! Please know, if you would like to be a “guest writer” or you have a particular question, please don’t hesitate to contact me at: jdewtn2018@att.net.

Speaking of the 12 days of Christmas, I’m sure everyone knows the song. The question of the origins of the popular Christmas carol “The Twelve Days of Christmas” has long divided carolers and carol critics alike. The mainline opinion is that it is merely a colorful but nonsensical “ditty” flung together by some anonymous Victorian nursery-rhymer. I don’t think so! Do you think this carol has a hidden message? Legend has it that during times when practicing Catholicism was illegal in England (1558-1829), “12 Days of Christmas” was actually a secret code used by Catholics to pass on their faith. Each gift symbolized an important aspect of their religious beliefs.

My opinion is that it does have a “hidden message” AND is a great teaching tool! That’s right – read on:

- 1) The carol starts: On the First Day of Christmas (December 25th) My true love gave to me: A partridge in a pear tree. According to the catechism hidden meaning, it means: The One true God revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. The partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus, the Son of God. Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, the only bird that will die to protect its young.
- 2) On the Second Day of Christmas (December 26th) My true love gave to me: Two Turtledoves. These twin birds represent the Old and New Testaments. So, in this gift, the singer finds the complete story of the Christian faith and God’s plan for the world.
- 3) On the Third Day of Christmas (December 27th) My true love gave to me: Three French Hens. These birds represent faith, hope, and love. This gift hearkens back to 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter written by the Apostle Paul. It also represents the Holy Trinity: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- 4) On the Fourth Day of Christmas (December 28th) My true love gave to me: Four Calling Birds. One of the easiest of the song’s code to figure out these fowl are the four Gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- 5) On the Fifth Day of Christmas (December 29th) My true love gave to me: Five Gold Rings. The gift of the rings represents the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch. (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)
- 6) On the Sixth Day of Christmas (December 30th) My true love gave to me: Six Geese a-Laying. These lyrics can be traced back to the first story found in the Bible. Each egg is a day in creation when God “hatched” or formed the world.
- 7) On the Seventh Day of Christmas (December 31st) My true love gave to me: Seven Swans a-Swimming. It would take someone quite familiar with the Bible to identify this gift. Hidden in the code are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (wonder and awe, wisdom, understanding, right judgment, knowledge, courage, and reverence). As swans are one of the most beautiful and graceful creatures on earth, they would seem to be a perfect symbol for spiritual gifts.
- 8) On the Eighth Day of Christmas (January 1st) My true love gave to me: Eight Maids-a-Milking. The Eight Maids represent the 8 Beatitudes, from Matthew 5:3-10.
- 9) On the Ninth Day of Christmas (January 2nd) My true love gave to me: Nine Ladies Dancing. These nine dancers were really the gifts known as the fruit of the Spirit.
- 10) On the Tenth Day of Christmas (January 3rd) My true love gave to me: Ten Lords a-leaping. This is probably the easiest gift to understand. As lords were judges and in charge of the law, this code was for the Ten Commandments.
- 11) On the Eleventh Day of Christmas (January 4th) My true love gave to me: Eleven Pipers Piping. This is almost a trick question, as most think of the disciples in terms of the dozen. But when Judas betrayed Jesus and died by suicide, only eleven men carried out the gospel message. Therefore, the Eleven Pipers Piping signify the 11 Faithful Disciples.
- 12) On the Twelfth Day of Christmas (January 5th) My true love gave to me: Twelve Drummers Drumming. The final gift is tied directly to the Catholic Church. The drummers are the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostles’ Creed.

As you can see there is a load of information from this song and why it would be a good teaching tool! I hope you enjoyed it! Have a wonderful week!



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. During our New Year may our families “grow in wisdom and have the favor of God upon them.”

In mid-December, SVDP gave over 80 Christmas Food Baskets to local “Neighbors in Need”, the Blount County Foster Families and the Blount County Sheriff’s Senior Advocacy Group. Thanks to our Parishioners for making this possible!

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 JANUARY “PRODUCT OF THE MONTH”



TOILET PAPER & NAPKINS

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The Christmas Flowers on the Altar have been donated by several parishioners in memory or honor of someone they know.

In Memory of

Joyce Troupe
Ralph & Irene Meyerkord
Jesse & Gloria Colvin
Deceased Members of the
McAdams/Mularski Families
Ted & Violet Jastrab
John & Theresa Peacock
Gene Solgat
Ward Swartz
Raymond Simons
Judy Compton

Marion E. Ganley
Norman & Lucille Weiland
Herma & Ralph Peychal
Philip Peychal
Normand & Therese Messier
Richard & Linda Coil
Jeffrey Farmer
Lois & Elmer Szekely
Arthur DuRussel
Dorothy Simons

Bruno Family
Kirkpatrick Family
Charles U. Fiorella
Evelyn Provenzo
Nick C. Provenzo
Jeanne Vilardo
George Szekely
Lois Zehnder
Molly Pickett
Margaret Jordan

In Honor of

Bruno Family

Kirkpatrick Family





**FIRST FRIDAY
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Friday, January 5

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.

**DEACON JIM SCHMALL'S
CONTACT INFO**

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

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—12/24 & 12/25/2023

4th Sunday in Advent Attendance: 124

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day: 216

Sunday Offertory	\$ 2,154.00
Donation Box	0.00
Holy Days (1/2 Christmas)	1,192.50
Other Donations*	<u>25.00</u>
Donations for the Week	\$ 3,371.50

Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 94,847.10
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations	<u>92,167.76</u>
Year-to-Date Donation Surplus	\$ 2,679.34

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,750.00
Parish Charity	0.00
1/2 Christmas Collection	<u>1,192.50</u>
Total Non-Budget Donations	\$ 3,942.50

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

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



"Notice, too, that at the crib, only two classes of people found their way to Christ when he came to this earth: the very simple, and the very learned—the shepherds who knew that they knew nothing, and the wise men who knew that they did not know everything; never the man who thought that he knew."

**—Fulton J. Sheen
quoted in the book
"Through the Year with Fulton Sheen"**

