



## JANUARY 14, 2024 SECOND 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.)

**COMMUNION SERVICES (NO MASSES) OFFERED MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>1/15</b>	8:30 AM	
<b>Tue</b>	<b>1/16</b>	8:30 AM	Brian Barker †
<b>Wed</b>	<b>1/17</b>	<b>NO MORNING MASS or COMMUNION SERVICE</b>	
<b>Thu</b>	<b>1/18</b>	8:30 AM	Dr. Ron Graham
<b>Fri</b>	<b>1/19</b>	8:30 AM	Hollis Bridier †
<b>Sat</b>	<b>1/20</b>	4:00 PM	Charlie Graham
<b>Sun</b>	<b>1/21</b>	9:00 AM	Ed Welsh

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, Naomi Nwadike, Jerome Chris Owens, Christopher Kramer, Cam King, David Holmes, Amy Frink, Myra Montera, Robert Modisett, Tony Foster, Mary Sellers, Claire Cheadle, Kathy Janke, Charlotte Fernandez, Elise Martin, Paula Watson, Mike Lauer, Tom Beasley, Mike Scully, Paul Fain, Joyce Fain, Normand

Messier, Jr., Charles Jones, 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:** 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. Catherine of Siena  
(1347 - 1380)**

*“Father, I am hungry;  
for the love of God give  
this soul her food, her  
Lord in the Eucharist.”*

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>1/15</b>	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
<b>Tue</b>	<b>1/16</b>		
<b>Wed</b>	<b>1/17</b>		
<b>Thu</b>	<b>1/18</b>	12 Noon	WES Team Meeting
<b>Fri</b>	<b>1/19</b>		
<b>Sat</b>	<b>1/20</b>	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>1/21</b>	9:00 AM	Mass

**WES TEAM MEETING - (WELCOMING, EVENTS, AND SOCIALS)**



Thursday the 18th at noon—a light lunch will be served. We will be discussing spring activities. If you are a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church, you are a member of the WES Team! Please come to the meeting and join in the Spring activities planning!



## Reflections on Samuel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time B

Today's first reading from the Old Testament comes from 1 Samuel. It tells the story of Samuel's calling. Samuel is such an important figure in the Old Testament that I thought I'd share some "Fun Facts" about him. While there are two books in the Old Testament attributed to Samuel, you can only read about him in First Samuel. He is not mentioned in Second Samuel. That is because both books were originally thought to be one document. He is one of my favorite characters in the Bible. Please read 1

Samuel and learn more about him.

**1. Samuel is a miracle child.** The Bible tells of many significant adults, but only a handful of significant pregnancies. Isaac, Ishmael, Jacob & Esau, Perez, Samson, John the Baptist, and Jesus are the others. We meet Samuel's parents before we meet him. His mother Hannah cannot have children, but God hears her prayers and opens her womb, blessing her with the child Samuel.

**2. Samuel's name means "name of God."** The translation of Samuel (sometimes spelled "Samual" when spelled in the English alphabet) literally means "name of God," or "God has heard."

**3. Samuel is from the tribe of Levi.** Samuel was from the tribe of Levi. This qualified him to serve in the temple, but Samuel was much more than a priest (see below).

**4. Samuel is the last judge.** After Joshua dies, the nation of Israel enters the "days of the judges," (Ru 1:1) when there was no centralized government. During this time, God would raise up individuals to deliver Israel from her enemies (Jdg 2:16). The book of Judges tells us about 12 judges, and First Samuel introduces two more: Eli and Samuel. Why is Samuel the last? Because after Samuel, Israel is led by kings (Ac 13:20).

**5. Samuel anoints the first two kings of Israel: Saul and David.** When the people demand a national king, God directs Samuel to anoint Saul, a tall man from the tribe of Benjamin. Saul doesn't turn out so well, and so God has Samuel anoint a young shepherd named David as the future king: not the king Israel needs, but the king they deserve. You can read all about that in First Samuel. Samuel is qualified to do this because of another office he holds . . .

**6. Samuel is the first of the prophets.** In the book of Acts, Peter also considers Samuel to be the first of the prophets—after Moses, that is (Acts 3:24). A prophet is someone who speaks on behalf of God. Samuel's prophetic ministry is significant because it begins at a time when words from the Lord are rare and infrequent (1 Sa 3:1). But after Samuel, Israel's history comes alive with prophetic revelation: much of which is recorded in the prophetic books of the Bible.

**7. Samuel is a priest.** He begins his ministry serving the chief priest in the tabernacle (1 Sa 3:1). Samuel makes sacrifices on behalf of the people, and offers intercessory prayers to God for them (1 Sa 7:9.)

**8. Samuel led the greatest Passovers.** Hundreds of years after Samuel's death, a king named Josiah celebrates the Passover. It's such an affair, the author says it's the greatest Passover ever—well, ever since Samuel's day (2 Ch 35:18).

Continued on next page

## Reflections on Samuel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time B - continued

**9. Samuel is a Nazarite.** Like the mighty Samson, Samuel is dedicated to the Lord as a child. This dedication was for life, and so he never cuts his hair (1 Sa 1:11, Nu 6:1–21).

**10. God calls Samuel by name—twice.** Samuel is one of several people in the Bible that God calls by name ... twice. Some others are Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Martha, Simon, and Saul.

Peace,  
Deacon Jim



As my previous Corner “reminisced” about the 12 Days of Christmas, I would like to concentrate and write about the “Eight Maids-a-Milking” – remember the Eight Maids-a-Milking represent the Eight Beatitudes. These Beatitudes sum up Jesus’ teaching about what it means to live as a child of God’s kingdom. The solemn blessings (beatitudes, benedictions) which mark the opening of the Sermon on the Mount, the very first of Jesus’ sermons in the Gospel of St. Matthew 5:1-12. Four of them occur again in a slightly different form in the Gospel of St. Luke 6:20-23. As Moses ascended Mt. Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments, so Jesus goes up a mountain in Galilee to present His Beatitudes and teachings. Jesus’ commandments go far beyond – but do not replace – those of Moses.

Why do you suppose St. Matthew put the Beatitudes at the beginning of our Lord’s public life? First, we have to ask, what does “beatitude” mean? The word “beatitude” means both happy and blessed. The first thing we think about in a journey and the last thing we arrive at – is our destination. The goal is important to keep always in mind, for it will determine what we “pack” for the journey. In life, the most important question to ask ourselves is “Where am I going?” St. Bernard always asked himself before a decision, “What will this avail me for my eternity?” Jesus wants us always to remember that our goal in life is happiness (eternal happiness in heaven), and through the Beatitudes we will get there.

In each Beatitude, Jesus applauds those who are poor, who recognize their need for God and find their treasure not in earthly riches or success but in God’s faithfulness and love. The CCC 1716 states: These teachings reflect the promises made to the chosen people since Abraham; they portray the countenance of Christ and describe His charity. Moreover, by shedding light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life, they describe the vocation of all the faithful. The Beatitudes are a summons to live the Good News, the Gospel way of life. They are values that help us renew our commitment to live the Law of God. These are the **attitudes** required for entering the Kingdom of God. (Taken from a teaching worksheet that is as old as my children, so there is no reference!)

The First one is “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” People who are poor in spirit depend on God for everything.

Continued on next page

(Catechism Corner—continued from page 4)

Nothing becomes more important to them than God. We are all “needy” people, but we need God the most. When our eyes are open to this and we truly act on it, we will be on the road to discovering the meaning of our lives! Who are the poor in spirit? Someone poor in spirit is someone who lives in his spiritual life the way a man who is poor in body lives in his physical life. The physically poor man works each day to receive his bread. The spiritual poor man prays each day to receive spiritual nourishment from the Lord. The spiritually poor man sees that he must always attend to the necessities of the spiritual life: prayer, works of mercy, confession of sins, and he does not give in to unnecessary distractions. The physically poor man sometimes lacks even necessary food for a time; the spiritually poor man will sometimes feel abandoned by God and desolation in prayer, yet all the while will continue trusting in his heavenly Father to provide for him. Another possible meaning for the expression “poor in spirit” is that it names those who are detached from wealth because of their love for God. In another sense, the poor in spirit can refer to those who are detached from worldly honors. That is, they are humble. And when their poverty of spirit is great, they even spurn worldly honor.

Finally, the expression “poor in spirit” can mean poor in the Spirit. This does not mean that they have little or nothing of the Holy Spirit. Rather, it means that their poverty is motivated by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. For such people, the gifts of the Holy Spirit incline them to seek their treasure in heaven. All of these ways of understanding the expression poor in spirit have three qualities in common: they all trust in God to provide for their needs; they all are detached from wealth or honor; and they all love God more than wealth or honor.

In short, the poor in spirit are those who are humble, those who depend upon God completely for every good, bodily and spiritual. Whoever has these qualities will inherit the kingdom of heaven.

Have a spirit filled week!



### THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today, Jesus asks “What are you looking for?” Often, we are looking for happiness in very selfish ways, but we find that when we look for ways to make others happy, it is then that we truly become happy.

**As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul poor box, know that you are a sign of God's love to those who are suffering, and you give them reason to believe and to trust.**

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 JANUARY “PRODUCT OF THE MONTH”



**TOILET PAPER & NAPKINS**

### 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, cleaning up after fellowship, and taking out the trash. If you have questions, please contact Donna Czerniewski (847-668-4074) who is coordinating this ministry. We need your help to keep this ministry active!



### WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—1/7/2024

The Epiphany of the Lord  
Attendance: 133

Sunday Offertory .....\$ 3,617.00  
 Donation Box ..... 0.00  
 Holy Days (1/2 Christmas) ..... 50.00  
 Other Donations\* ..... 210.00  
 Donations for the Week .....\$ 3,927.00

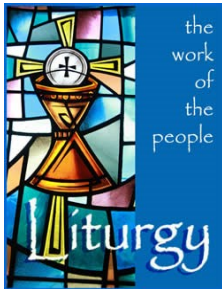
Year-to-Date Donations ..... \$ 102,027.10  
 Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations ..... 99,239.78  
 Year-to-Date Donation **Surplus** .....\$ **2,787.32**

#### Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund .....\$ 520.00  
 Parish Charity ..... 0.00  
 Other ..... 150.00  
 Total Non-Budget Donations.....\$ 670.00

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

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



### LITURGICAL MINISTRIES QUARTERLY SIGN-UPS

#### FOR FEBRUARY, MARCH & APRIL

This is our final weekend for Liturgical Ministries signup! The signup sheets are on the counter in Shea Hall. Please take some time before or after Mass this weekend to sign up for your ministry/ministries.

If you would like more information about our Liturgical Ministries, please check out our website, the bulletin board in Shea Hall or contact one of our ministry heads:

Lectors	Martha Frink	865-556-4684	marthafrink00@gmail.com
	Dc. Jim Schmall	901-493-2123	junglejim1908@gmail.com
EMHC*	Karen Messenger	225-572-9400	komessenger@gmail.com
Ushers	Paul Czerniewski	847-877-7347	paul.czerniewski@gmail.com
Sacristans	Kathy Meyerkord	630-698-5563	kmmeyerkord@gmail.com
Altar Servers	Dan Meyerkord	708-846-4144	dkam27@sbcglobal.net

\* Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

### DEACON JIM SCHMALL'S CONTACT INFORMATION

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





**PREGNANCY**  
HELP CENTER

## PREGNANCY HELP CENTER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Do you have a few hours to help a mother and baby in need? Catholic Charities of East Tennessee's Pregnancy Help Center is looking for English and Spanish-speaking volunteers to assist with office help, sorting & stocking its baby stores, and the Earn While You Learn program. The Pregnancy Help Center educates parents on pregnancy, parenting, and life skills while allowing parents to earn the supplies they need to care for their babies. Women and men volunteers are needed. Training is provided and schedules are very flexible. CCETN operates centers in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Johnson City, LaFollette, Newcomb, and Helenwood. Contact Catholic Charities at 865-524-9896 for contact information at individual offices.

### BE OUR LIGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR

Come, Holy Spirit,  
Spirit of the Risen Christ,  
be with us today and always.  
Be our Light,  
our Guide,  
and our Comforter.  
Be our Strength,  
our Courage,  
and our Sanctifier.  
May this new year  
be a time of deep spiritual growth for us,  
A time of welcoming your graces and gifts,  
A time for forgiving freely and unconditionally,  
A time for growing in virtue and goodness.  
Come, Holy Spirit,  
Be with us today and always.

- Author Unknown

Image courtesy of nuchylee at FreeDigitalPhotos.net

## RETHINKING JUSTICE

Christmas ... Jesus is born and becomes one with us in our joys, our hurting and our struggles. He came and confronted injustices that burdened people in His community.

As Catholics, we are good at doing works of mercy, but is our parish doing justice in our community? Our God calls us to do both justice work and mercy work.

Come and hear **Father Dan Noll, Vicar General of the Diocese of Lexington** speak on our Catholic Tradition and Biblical Justice.

**Tuesday, January 16, 2024 6:30 PM**  
**All Saints Catholic Parish**  
**Knoxville, TN**

Presented by the Social Concerns Committee  
and Justice Knox Team at St. John XXIII



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP  
OPEN FOR BUSINESS  
AFTER WEEKEND MASSES



**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH - TOWNSEND, TN  
HAS BEEN AWARDED \$6,000.00 IN GRANT MONEY  
FROM THE DIOCESAN CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST FUND (CETF)**

In April of 2023, Julie Dew, our Director of Religious Education embarked upon pursuing grant money from the Diocese of Knoxville. Deacon Jim Bello, Diocesan Director of Christian Formation, played an integral part in including and encouraging our parish to participate.

Through Julie's husband Michael Dew's experience with writing grants for the city of Ft. Lauderdale, our small parish was awarded two grants - each in the amount of \$3,000.00 (for a total of \$6000) - from the Diocese of Knoxville! These funds are to be used as an aid to help purchase materials we could not otherwise afford that will help to facilitate catechesis at all levels. We have made good use of the grant money! Below is a partial list of items we have purchased with grant money:

<b>ITEM FUNDED</b>	<b>BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HOW FUNDING HAS BENEFITTED THE PARISH</b>
Word & Worship Workbooks - Years A, B, & C	Materials are made available to any parishioner in order to expand their Catholic knowledge
Reference materials for Parish Library & Adoration	Meditation Booklets to enhance time spent in Adoration
Book of the Gospels, Leccionario I, II, III	These books replace very old, worn, and outdated parish copies. They books are available to all parishioners before, during and after Mass.
Rosary Banner	Promotes and enhances prayer life
Religious Education Computer Laptop	Promotes and enhances prayer life
Weekday Lectionaries	Replaces very old, worn, and outdated parish copies
Adoration Guides, supplies, and food for Advent Retreat	Advent Retreat with Dc. Jim Bello to enhance parish prayer life
Books for the library and for "handouts" to parishioners	<i>Food for the Soul, The Rocking Chair Prophet</i>
Items for Pastoral Care Ministry	To help with caring for our sick and homebound parishioners
Roman Missal	Adult catechesis

Thank you Julie and Michael for your outstanding work in securing these grants for our beautiful little church on the river! Parishioners: please be sure and check out our parish library in the Parish Resource Center (the Church Office building) - we have a lot of wonderful books, CDs, Videos and other materials... all geared toward deepening your faith and enhancing your spiritual journey!