



JANUARY 21, 2024 THIRD 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.)

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

Mon	1/22	8:30 AM	Alice Rollins †
Tue	1/23	8:30 AM	Brian Barker †
Wed	1/24	NO MORNING MASS or COMMUNION SERVICE	
Thu	1/25	8:30 AM	
Fri	1/26	8:30 AM	Larry Daily †
Sat	1/27	4:00 PM	Logan Bell, Ron Eberhardt, Bob Eberhardt, Loretta Eberhardt †
Sun	1/28	9:00 AM	Randall Barks †

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. Teresa of Kolkata (Mother Teresa) (1910-1997)

“Jesus has made Himself the Bread of Life to give us life. Night and day, He is there. If you really want to grow in love, come back to the Eucharist, come back to that Adoration.”

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	1/22	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	1/23		
Wed	1/24		
Thu	1/25		
Fri	1/26		
Sat	1/27	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	1/28	9:00 AM	Mass



**ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP
OPEN FOR BUSINESS
AFTER WEEKEND MASSES**



God Alone Remains: The Story of Jonah

An old fisherman found himself at the pearly gates of heaven and was greeted by St. Peter. "Friend," said Peter, "what are you doing here?"

"I want to get in," said the fisherman. "I want to enter heaven."

"I'm sorry," said St. Peter, "but you can't come in. You've simply told too many lies during your life."

This caused the fisherman to fall on his knees and plead, "Have a heart Peter. Remember you were a fisherman once yourself."

Fishermen and fish stories are notorious for exaggeration. Fish stories often disregard the truth. This, however, is not the case in the Book of Jonah, which is perhaps the most famous fish story of all time. Today's first reading is from the Book of Jonah. It is the only time that the Book of Jonah appears in the Sunday lectionary, and we are at a great disadvantage because we have only a piece of this story. If we were to understand the message of the Book of Jonah, we would not find an exaggeration or a lie. We would discover an astounding revelation, and startling truth concerning God's mercy.

In order to really understand what this story of Jonah is about; we need to know who the Ninevites were. Nineveh was the capital of the ancient empire of Assyria, and the Assyrians were the most violent and feared people in the ancient world. They were always seeking to extend their empire and they did so by whatever means available. They were violent and ruthless. The Assyrians destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel and almost captured Jerusalem. Therefore, all the people of the ancient world, but particularly the Jews, hated the Assyrians. So did Jonah. So when God asked Jonah to go and preach in Nineveh, Jonah did not want to go. Jonah was afraid that his preaching might be the very excuse that God needed to forgive and show mercy to the Assyrians. Jonah did not want that to happen. He did not want his enemies to receive God's mercy. Therefore, when God asks Jonah to go to Nineveh, he runs away. This is recounted in the first part of the Book of Jonah. Jonah books passage on a ship to Tarshish, trying to run away from God's command. This is where the fish comes in. God sends a storm, Jonah ends up in the water, and the fish comes and swallows him.

So far from telling us a lie, this remarkable fish story from the Hebrew Bible reveals something true about our God. It tells us how God is always above any of the divisions or conflicts that divide us. It tells us why God always prefers peace to war, life to death, mercy over vengeance. Now I know that we live in a complicated world. I believe that we must take steps to protect ourselves from those who would harm us. But as our country seeks a way to do this, we as believers must remember where our God stands. Jesus knew the message of the Book of Jonah. For Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful for they will obtain mercy. Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God." Those are words by which we are called to live.

CATECHISM

CORNER



Happy Third Sunday in Ordinary Time St. Francis! This Corner's Beatitude is Blessed are they who mourn; for they will be comforted. Jesus says in this Beatitude from Matthew 5:4 that those who mourn are blessed, and they will be comforted. While we normally interpret those who mourn as those who are "crying" over various things that cause them grief, such as the loss of a loved one, mourning in this passage does not mean the same thing.

Rather, the way Jesus uses the word "mourn" is in the way of people mourning over their own sins. Therefore, when the Lord says, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted" (Matthew 5:4), he is referring to those who mourn over their own sin, for they will be comforted.

When we mourn over our sins, it brings our hearts to repentance (Sacrament of Confession). This is why the Lord says we will be comforted when we mourn because God will forgive us our sins and give us comfort in our hearts. If we mourn over our sin, it demonstrates the truth that we see sin the same way God sees it — completely wicked, vile, and evil. I know those are some harsh words, but sin is just that — wicked, vile and evil.

Since we have established the meaning of mourning in reference to Matthew 5:4, we have also to understand what "blessed" means in this context. Often, we don't think of people being blessed if they are in mourning; however, since we know the proper definition of mourning in the context of Matthew 5:4, it helps shine a light on the meaning of "blessed" in this passage also.

When the Lord tells us we are blessed if we mourn, He is telling us that we are indeed blessed if we mourn over our sins because it shows we are seeing sins the same way He sees sin. By feeling guilt and mourning over our sins, it shows that we are having great Christian growth and that the Holy Spirit is working in our hearts, thus causing us to turn away from sin. Therefore, those who mourn can be full of joy because our deep mourning and sorrow will lead us to repentance (the Sacrament of Confession), lead us to the mercy of God, and causes us to follow after the leading of the Holy Spirit. Anything that causes us to follow after God and to pursue His heart brings joy to God.

Blessed often is connected with happiness or joy, and through the beatitudes, including the beatitude of "blessed are those who mourn," the Lord teaches us that lasting happiness and joy cannot be found apart from Him.

This may read as a little confusing, so I would like to summarize by this statement (It helped me!): The Lord tells us that those who mourn will be comforted. God Himself comforts us and gives us the peace that only He can provide. When we mourn and acknowledge our sins before God, He is faithful, and He will comfort our hearts. I will say how comforting this Beatitude is once I knew the true meaning of Matthew 5:4!

As you reflect on this Corner, please also reflect on the part of our Mass and we acknowledge our sins which begins the Penitential Rite, and we say the Confiteor (Latin for I confess). This is followed by the Kyrie, where we ask for God's mercy. We do this at **every** Mass. To me, this is very comforting.

Peace to you, St. Francis.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus says: "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." As disciples, we are called to continue God's work on earth. Taking care of God's poor is indeed living gospel values.

This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist local families, by providing food and assisting with utility, rent and other bills. May God Bless You!

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

Second Collection for the Church in Latin America

A second collection will be taken up on January 27 & 28 in support of the pastoral work of the Church in the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America, and South America. Your donation will assist the bishops, priests and religious in countries such as Haiti, El Salvador and Chile in their work of evangelization, the formation of seminarians and religious, catechesis, and youth ministry. Thank you for your generosity in support of the Church in Latin America.



THE BISHOP'S APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES IS UNDERWAY

The Bishop's Appeal for Ministries begins with a mailing that many of our parishioners have received or will soon receive. Your gift not only funds many of the operations of the Diocese of Knoxville, but it also funds services that are of great help to the ministries here in our parish.

Each Appeal gift enables the diocese to build up the kingdom of God throughout East Tennessee. God gives us all that we have. Even when we want to believe that our successes are self-made, we know that it is God who has blessed us abundantly with all we have. He is always giving to us. His grace is always there for us. One way that we can show our gratitude is by offering our generous financial support to our parish and to our diocese and to the Church throughout the world. The gifts that we give enable ministries, education and services that touch thousands of lives.

Please make a commitment to the annual appeal. All pledges can be paid in ten installments. Thank you in advance for your support.

**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—1/14/2024

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Attendance: 166

Sunday Offertory	\$ 3,493.00
Donation Box	0.00
Other Donations*	<u>250.00</u>
Donations for the Week	\$ 3,927.00

Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 105,770.10
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations	<u>102,775.79</u>
Year-to-Date Donation Surplus	\$ 2,994.31

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,002.00
Parish Charity	<u>510.00</u>
Total Non-Budget Donations	\$ 1,512.00

* Mass Intentions, Flowers, Candles, Facility Use, etc.
** Based on Year-to-Date Total Donations minus Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations

SIXTH ANNUAL KNIGHTS CUP LACROSSE TOURNAMENT

The Knights of Columbus Council at Sacred Heart Cathedral are sponsoring a 2-day varsity college lacrosse event on 2/9-10/2024 at Blaine Stadium on the campus of Knoxville Catholic High School. Colleges from Iowa, Missouri, Florida, Alabama and Tennessee will be coming to Knoxville for five games that will showcase this increasingly popular Sport at a high level of competition. Proceeds will support the work of the Catholic Charities Office of Pregnancy Services. A pre-season Youth/middle school jamboree will be part of the event. Event information with links for corporate sponsorships, game program advertising, and discounted advance purchase tickets can be found at www.knightscup.org or by contacting Tome Ciaccia at 865-765-4046 or tcuaccuak11@gmail.com



Simply direct your browser of choice to
<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!).

DEACON JIM SCHMALL'S CONTACT INFORMATION

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