



## JANUARY 28, 2024 FOURTH 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

<b>PASTOR:</b>	Rev. Antonio Giraldo
<b>DEACON:</b>	Deacon Jim Schmall
<b>OFFICE MANAGER:</b>	Kathy Meyerkord
<b>BOOKKEEPER:</b>	Kathleen Halligan
<b>LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTOR:</b>	JoAnne Romer-Aylward
<b>DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:</b>	Julie Dew
<b>OCIA:</b>	Bruce Boudin
<b>WELCOMING, EVENTS AND SOCIALS (WEST):</b>	All
<b>GARDENS &amp; GROUNDS:</b>	Ilene Rainwater
<b>FACILITIES:</b>	David Girard
<b>SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE:</b>	JoAnne Romer-Aylward
<b>PASTORAL CARE (SICK &amp; HOMEBOUND):</b>	Suzie Fay
<b>ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP:</b>	Camilla Sorrell
<b>COLUMBARIUM:</b>	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.)

<b>Mon</b>	<b>1/29</b>	8:30 AM	J.T. Grail II †	<b>Communion Service</b>
<b>Tue</b>	<b>1/30</b>	8:30 AM	J.T. Grail II †	<b>Communion Service</b>
<b>Wed</b>	<b>1/31</b>			<b>NO MORNING MASS</b>
<b>Thu</b>	<b>2/1</b>	8:30 AM	Hollis Bridier †	
<b>Fri</b>	<b>2/2</b>	8:30 AM	Father Antonio	
<b>Sat</b>	<b>2/3</b>	4:00 PM	Joann Nieman † & Zack Bell	
<b>Sun</b>	<b>2/4</b>	9:00 AM	Therese Messier †	

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, Elise Martin, Paula Watson, Mike Lauer, Tom Beasley, Mike Scully, Paul Fain, Joyce Fain, Normand Messier, Jr., Charles Jones, 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. Padre Pio  
(1887-1968)**

*“Always remain close to the Catholic Church, because it alone can give you true peace, since it alone possesses Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, the true Prince of Peace.”*

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>1/29</b>	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
<b>Tue</b>	<b>1/30</b>		
<b>Wed</b>	<b>1/31</b>		
<b>Thu</b>	<b>2/1</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>2/2</b>	9:00 AM	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday Adoration
<b>Sat</b>	<b>2/3</b>	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>2/4</b>	9:00 AM	Mass



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

## CAPERNAUM



We've been focusing a lot on Capernaum lately in the Gospel readings. Capernaum was a very important place. It was Jesus' home after He left Nazareth. I have never been to the Holy Land. It's on my bucket list. If I do go though, I will certainly visit Capernaum.

It is said that a pilgrimage to Israel is like the Fifth Gospel because after such a pilgrimage we read the Sacred Scriptures with a new understanding having been in the places associated with Jesus and mentioned in the Gospels. One of the places a pilgrimage to Israel visits is the location of the synagogue in Capernaum where Jesus exorcised the man in today's Gospel (Mark 1:21-28). Also, in that synagogue Jesus preached his sermon on the Bread of Life in John 6 which will be our Sunday Gospel for a number of Sundays this summer (18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Sundays in Ordinary Time Year B). Another place to visit in Capernaum is the house where Peter lived since Jesus lodged with Peter in Capernaum which will feature in our Gospel next Sunday (Mark 1:29-39). Because of his fishing business, Peter had moved to Capernaum as it was on the northern shore of the large lake called the Sea of Galilee. A church with a glass floor now stands over the location of Peter's house where Jesus used to stay so you can look right down into that area.

Jesus came to Capernaum after he had a confrontation in his synagogue in Nazareth, his boyhood home. Since he was rejected in Nazareth, Jesus Christ decided to relocate his ministry to Capernaum. It was an ideal spot for Jesus to deliver his messianic message; it was a larger town than Nazareth and was on the main Damascus Highway. As a result, Jesus was able to reach out to more people. It was also a safe distance from Tiberias and the dangers of Herod. Soon after Jesus settled there, he began to preach in the synagogue. The town was soon referred to as "his own city." (Mt 9:1)

The bible also mentioned Jesus as staying in the house of Peter, who lived in Capernaum. Here, Jesus is known to have healed the fever of Simon's mother-in-law as well as a Roman Centurion's servant.

There are detailed descriptions of the area from the first century thanks to the writings of the historian Josephus. Josephus was taken to Capernaum after he was wounded in a battle near Bethsaida. His writings on Capernaum speak about an area with fertile springs. Yet today, springs are only to be found in Tabgha, 3 miles west of Capernaum. To this day, there is a dispute about whether Tabgha is the original site of Capernaum.

There is also evidence that Judeo-Christians lived in the Jewish community of Capernaum in the late Roman period. Since Capernaum decided not to participate in the Jewish revolts against the Romans in the first and second centuries, it was spared and remained unscathed for centuries. According to archaeologists, the city thrived throughout the Hellenistic and Roman periods but was abandoned in the seventh century CE after the Islamic invasion.

Christian pilgrims today will see archaeological excavations that have uncovered an original city of about 1500 inhabitants. Several sanctuaries have been excavated, testifying that the location was at one time venerated. And evidence at the site indicates that an earlier house was transformed into a church. This church, we believe, was built on the house of the apostle Peter. ([www.biblestudytools.com](http://www.biblestudytools.com))

## CATECHISM

ORNER



Good Sunday St. Francis of Assisi! Today, the Beatitude we will be reflecting on is Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. The land that is referred to in this passage is the earth itself.

The Meaning of "Blessed Are the Meek": Meekness is humility. And in the case of Christianity, it describes how we are to depend on God rather than ourselves or the world. In Matthew 5:5, Jesus referred to Psalm 37:11, which says, "But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy peace and prosperity."

We might have a different idea of meekness in our culture than in Jesus' day. Let's "talk" about this word! Meek isn't a common word we use to describe someone. A deeper look at its true meaning explains why such a characteristic is a rare commodity. To be meek is to be kind and gentle, submissive or compliant, tame, and humbly patient or docile. God sees every part of our hearts, and His truth serves as a necessary guidepost to ensure we are living the way He has called us to live – the way just described.

To be meek is to be gentle, lowly, humble. Humble people show gentleness and patience toward others. Truly meek or humble people do not throw their weight around. They are gentle, but with firm faith. They are peaceable without being compromising. The meek/humble can restrain their anger; they can be tolerant. They are not prideful, overbearing or haughty. But they are not wimps, or spiritless or overly submissive. Yet they will go the extra mile, turn the other cheek. "The meek are the 'gentle'... those who do not assert themselves over others in order to further their own agendas in their own strength, but who will nonetheless inherit the earth because they trust in God to direct the outcome of events. People who are humble/meek know that everything and everyone is a gift from God, and a sign that He is always with us, therefore reach out to others.

Another way to think about this beatitude of "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land" is that you're blessed when you are content with just who you are—no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourself a proud owner of everything that can't be bought. It's interesting to note that the translators interpreted meekness to mean accepting the gifts God has given to us! We embrace who God created us to be and His distinct purpose for our lives.

Most of those who receive blessings would've been the least of these in Jesus' culture, and the meek stand at no exception. With an oppressor like Rome at the heels of the Israelites, they wanted to do the opposite of gentleness. They wanted to rebel, to crush Rome. And they thought Jesus would be the man for the job. Which brings up to what this verse does NOT mean?

(Christians can often misinterpret this along with the "turn the other cheek" verse we find in the same sermon series.) Meekness does not mean remaining quiet when we see injustices take place in the world around us or simply sitting back and taking abuse in our families, in our church, and in our world.

Continued on next page

(Catechism Corner continued from previous page)

Meekness here means a number of things:

- ❖ **NON-RETALIATION:** In Jesus' culture, they operated in an eye-for-an-eye mindset. If someone were to wrong you, you'd wrong them back. The problem was retaliation escalated in a never-ending cycle. Here, Jesus calls us to diffuse the fire before it grows too dangerous.
- ❖ **THANKFULNESS:** We ought to be thankful for the gifts God has given us. A worldly leader wants more and more and is envious of the gifts others have that he cannot possess. A godly leader is content with the gifts God has given him and chooses to honor God with them.
- ❖ **JOY:** No matter how dire the circumstances, a meek person will find joy in knowing the heavenly Father has a plan for his life.

Thank you for reading today's Corner. Please reflect on and pray about the following statement during your Sunday: Meekness doesn't appear to have a high place in our society. Meekness, defined here by a gentleness or the state of not being provoked easily by an enemy or oppressor, has virtually no place in a revenge-based world that we live in.



### SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA

This weekend we take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America! Many people in Latin America and the Caribbean do not have access to Church programs and ministries because of a rising secular culture, rugged rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers. Your generosity enables our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean to share in the life of the Church and grow closer to Christ. Please be generous in the special collection! To learn more, please visit [www.usccb.org/latin-america](http://www.usccb.org/latin-america).



### FEBRUARY 3 & 4 SECOND COLLECTION MAINTENANCE FUND

Your donations to this fund will help pay for the rising cost of maintaining our aging buildings and to continue with preventative maintenance. Thank you for your support of this fund! You may use the envelope that came in your envelope packet or mark on a plain envelope or on the check that your donation is for the Maintenance Fund.



### YOUR KARM DONATIONS BENEFIT THE SVDP FOOD PANTRY



Did you know that your donations to KARM can benefit our food pantry "Neighbors in Need"? With "Spring Cleaning" just around the corner, you can take all the items you are cleaning out of your closets 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.



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today we read that because Jesus spoke with authority his reputation spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee. As his disciples, we can also speak with authority when we put our faith into actions by helping the poor and suffering.

**Have you considered answering the call to serve the poor  
by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?**

### SVDP JANUARY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"



**TOILET PAPER & NAPKINS**

### SVDP FEBRUARY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"



**CAKE MIX & FROSTING**

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!



### THE BISHOP'S APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES COMMITMENT WEEKEND

Please spend some time this week reflecting on the Bishop's Appeal for Ministries information that you received with your bulletin. Please remember that the Annual Appeal is much different than a one-time special collection. It is a pledge campaign where you can make a gift payable in installments.

As you review the work enabled by your contribution to the Bishop's Appeal for Ministries, please reflect on God's gifts to you. He has given you all that you have. Your gifts to our parish, to the diocese and to the work of the Church throughout the world should be given in gratitude for the continuing gifts that God gives you.

Each donation makes a difference because all parishes participate in the campaign and the gifts of many enable our diocese to deliver needed ministries and services. Our combined gifts not only signify our gratitude to God, but they also fund a significant portion of the work of our diocese.

If you received your pledge form in the mail and have not sent it in, please complete it and mail it back or bring it to Mass next weekend. For those of you that did not receive a mailing or have not had time to respond to it, we will conduct our in-pew pledge process at all Masses next weekend. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response.



**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—1/21/2024**

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Attendance: 0

Sunday Offertory .....	\$ 0.00
Donation Box .....	0.00
Other Donations* .....	<u>0.00</u>
Donations for the Week .....	\$ 0.00

Year-to-Date Donations .....	\$ 105,770.10
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations .....	<u>106,311.80</u>
Year-to-Date Donation <b>Deficit</b> .....	<b>\$ 5410.70</b>

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund .....	\$ 0.00
Parish Charity .....	<u>0.00</u>
Total Non-Budget Donations .....	\$ 0.00

\* 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](http://www.knightscup.org) or by contacting Tome Ciaccia at 865-765-4046 or [tcuaccuak11@gmail.com](mailto:tcuaccuak11@gmail.com)

CHURCH DIRECTORY  
PICTURES ARE  
AVAILABLE ONLINE

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!).

**FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION - FEBRUARY 2, 2024**



**Mass: 8:30 AM**  
**Adoration: 9 AM - Noon**  
**Benediction: Noon**

“The most powerful thing we can do on this earth with our time is to spend it in Eucharistic adoration. Nothing can do more to change the world, to bring about peace, to convert hearts, to make reparation for the many evils committed. Spending time in prayer may seem, on the outside, to be a passive thing; however, it is anything but! Our world is in desperate need of home, of renewal, of a *‘turning back’* to things of God. By visiting Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, we take up the best weapon for the battles of our age and contribute to the healing of our culture. Cultivating a Eucharistic life of adoration also bears tremendous fruit in our own hearts and lives. We cannot spend time in the rays of His Eucharistic Presence without receiving His grace, His love, His mercy, and His peace. As we gaze upon Him Face to face, we are transformed little by little into a closer reflection of His divine image.”

- Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, p. 37-38



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 INFORMATION**

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