

**JANUARY 7, 2024**  
**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**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</b>	
<b>(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>1/8</b>	8:30 AM	Brian Barker †
<b>Tue</b>	<b>1/9</b>	8:30 AM	The Fenrich Family
<b>Wed</b>	<b>1/10</b>	<b>NO MORNING MASS</b>	
<b>Thu</b>	<b>1/11</b>	8:30 AM	
<b>Fri</b>	<b>1/12</b>	8:30 AM	
<b>Sat</b>	<b>1/13</b>	4:00 PM	Barbara Angle †
<b>Sun</b>	<b>1/14</b>	9:00 AM	

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:** 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**



**Mark 11:23-24**

*Amen, I say to you:  
Whatever you ask in  
prayer, believe that you  
will receive and it shall  
be given to you, says the  
Lord.*

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>1/8</b>	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
<b>Tue</b>	<b>1/9</b>		
<b>Wed</b>	<b>1/10</b>		
<b>Thu</b>	<b>1/11</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>1/12</b>		
<b>Sat</b>	<b>1/13</b>	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>1/14</b>	9:00 AM	Mass



## CATHOLIC PRAYER: BLESSING OF THE HOME ON EPIPHANY

*This ceremony of the blessing of the home and inscription of the initials of the three Magi above each door can be performed either by a priest or deacon or the head of the household.*

*The feast of manifestation, or Epiphany, is traditionally celebrated the 12th day after Christmas, January 6th. In the dioceses of the United States this feast has been moved to the Sunday between January 2 and January 8.*

**ITEMS NEEDED:** Chalk and a small bottle of holy water. Gather with family members, friends, and perhaps some neighbors at the front door.

### **BLESSING THE CHALK:**

LEADER: *Our help is the name of the LORD:*

ALL: **The maker of heaven and earth.**

LEADER: *The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in:*

ALL: **From this time forth for evermore.**

LEADER: *Let us pray.*

ALL: **Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name that we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your holy ones Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit our home; through Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.**

**BLESSING THE EXTERIOR OF THE HOME:** *(The initials, C, M, B, can also be interpreted as the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat" which means "Christ bless this house".)*

Using the blessed chalk, mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows:

**20 + C + M + B + 24** while saying:

ALL: **The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty three years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.**

Then offer the following prayer:

LEADER: *Visit, O blessed LORD, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever.*

ALL: **Amen.**

**Used with permission: [olmaycarmelites.org/news/epiphany-house-blessing](http://olmaycarmelites.org/news/epiphany-house-blessing)**

**Because the chalk is blessed it shouldn't go back in the box with the regular old chalk! Save it for next year or bury it in the back yard.**

**Deacon Jim**

## CATECHISM CORNER

Happy 2024 St. Francis of Assisi! May this new year bring you good health, many blessings and loads of smiles with wonderful memories! AND Happy and blessed Epiphany of the Lord!

You may ask yourself what does the word “Epiphany” mean? “Epiphany” simply means “manifestation.” It comes from Greek roots that mean “to show, to display.” An epiphany is thus a time when something is shown, displayed, or manifested to an audience.

This feast commemorates the mysterious visit of the magi to the Baby Jesus. My big question is: Who were these “magi”? And then I would ask: Why would they come to see a baby? The “concept” of Magi encompasses a wide range of meanings, from the wholly positive to the wholly negative. They were regarded as “rulers of a distinctive religion,” but at the same time their religious ideas were thought to be “strongly influenced by philosophy.” Even if they were not exactly members of the Persian priesthood, they were nevertheless custodians of religious and philosophical knowledge that had developed in that area and continued to be cultivated there. Ok, now you know “who” they were, but why would they venture so far to see a baby? Apparently, they had material of a prophetic nature (some have suggested that they got it from an eastern Jewish community, such as the one in Babylon) that allowed them to identify the birth of the new “king of the Jews” astronomically. They may have been especially motivated to come see this king of the Jews since there was an expectation at the time that a universal ruler would shortly come from Israel, and I assume that is probably why they went to King Herod. I guess they only assumed the newborn king would be a son of Herod — the current “king of the Jews.”

The Magi have a symbolic role to play in this feast day. Coming from the east, they represent the Gentile world coming to worship the new king. Also, compared to the humble shepherds, they represented people with a different status in society worshipping Jesus. There is an Armenian tradition identifying the “Magi of Bethlehem” as Balthasar of Arabia, Melchior of Persia, and Caspar of India; which means they would have travelled more than 900 miles!

Here are 5 facts that I would like to share with you concerning the Epiphany:

1. The Epiphany is celebrated on January 6<sup>th</sup>.
2. It marks the day Jesus was revealed to the world.
3. In some countries, Epiphany is as important as Christmas day.
4. Some believe it is the wise men, not Santa, who bring gifts for children.
5. Eastern Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas on Epiphany, they celebrate Epiphany on January 19.

Have a wonderful and peaceful week St. Francis!





## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

**In the spirit of the Magi, please put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box so that comfort and peace can once again be given to a newborn child.**

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**

## ***CHRISTMAS FLOWERS***

The Christmas Flowers on the Altar, around the church, and in Shea Hall have been donated by several parishioners in memory of or in honor of someone they know.

### ***In Memory of:***

Joyce Troupe	Marion E. Ganley	Bruno Family	Gene Solgat
Ralph & Irene Meyerkord	Norman & Lucille Weiland	Kirkpatrick Family	Ward Swartz
Jesse & Gloria Colvin	Herma & Ralph Peychal	Charles U. Fiorella	Judy Compton
Deceased Members of the	Philip Peychal	Evelyn Provenzo	Lois Zehnder
McAdams/Mularski Families	Normand & Therese Messier	Nick C. Provenzo	Molly Pickett
Ted & Violet Jastrab	Richard & Linda Coil	Jeanne Vilardo	Raymond Simons
John & Theresa Peacock	Jeffrey Farmer	George Szekely	Dorothy Simons
Lois & Elmer Szekely	Arthur DuRussel	Margaret Jordan	

### ***In Honor of:***

Bruno Family                      Kirkpatrick Family



### **DEACON JIM SCHMALL'S CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

## 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—12/31/2023

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
Attendance: 157

Sunday Offertory .....	\$ 2,859.00
Donation Box .....	0.00
Holy Days (1/2 Christmas) .....	50.00
Other Donations* .....	<u>444.00</u>
Donations for the Week .....	\$ 3,353.00

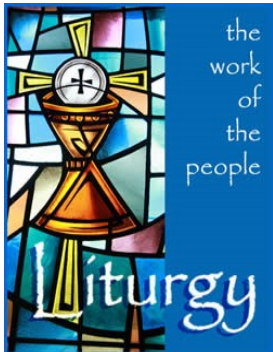
Year-to-Date Donations .....	\$ 98,200.10
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations .....	<u>95,703.77</u>
Year-to-Date Donation <b>Surplus</b> .....	<b>\$ 2,496.33</b>

### Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund .....	\$ 35.00
Parish Charity .....	0.00
Other .....	<u>25.00</u>
Total Non-Budget Donations .....	\$ 60.00

\* 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

It is time for Liturgical Ministries signup! The signup sheets are on the counter in Shea Hall. Please take some time this week and next 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



## JANUARY 13 & 14 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.



**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. 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!