



## FEBRUARY 11, 2024 SIXTH 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.)

**Mon 2/12** 8:30 AM Florence Kivitlewski<sup>†</sup>  
**Tue 2/13** 8:30 AM Virginia Ann Welsh<sup>†</sup>  
**Wed 2/14** 9:00 AM & 6:00 PM **ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES**  
**Thu 2/15** 8:30 AM Andrew T. Roth<sup>†</sup>  
**Fri 2/16** 8:30 AM Marion Ganley<sup>†</sup>  
**Sat 2/17** 4:00 PM Jessie & Zack Bell, Hadley Jo Watson  
**Sun 2/18** 9:00 AM Karl Baldwin<sup>†</sup>

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, Jay Ladner

**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:** The sanctuary flowers for February 3<sup>rd</sup> through February 13<sup>th</sup> have been **donated in Memory of Debbie Mannino by Eric & Gail Simmons**. 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. Faustina  
(1905-1938)**

*“Holy Communion assures me that I will win the victory; and so it is. I fear the day when I do not receive Holy Communion. The bread of the Strong gives me all the strength I need to carry on my mission and to do whatever the Lord asks of me.”*

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>2/12</b>	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
<b>Tue</b>	<b>2/13</b>		
<b>Wed</b>	<b>2/14</b>	9:00 AM 6:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Masses
<b>Thu</b>	<b>2/15</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>2/16</b>		
<b>Sat</b>	<b>2/17</b>	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>2/18</b>	9:00 AM	Mass



## DEACON'S NOTES

### HEALING ON THE INSIDE

We begin with a question: What minority today suffers from the oldest, the most widespread, the most humiliating, and the most crippling bigotry in human history? If you were to say the Jewish people, Native American Indians, African Americans, we would be wrong. It's lepers.

Throughout history, no sickness has been linked with more superstition, fear, and error than leprosy. Every culture, every place, every era has had an especially vivid horror of leprosy. Lepers were expelled not only from their family and community, but were almost cut off from human sympathy. Lepers were forbidden to enter cities. They had to live on the outskirts. And when they would come nearby to pick up food left behind, they had to make some kind of noise and shout unclean so nobody would bump into them accidentally. People didn't see leprosy as an illness. They saw it almost as a punishment from God for their sins.

At the time of Christ, lepers were in a special category. Jesus tells his disciples at one point to heal the sick and to cleanse the lepers. Even today, the word leprosy strikes fear in people's minds. If we heard, for example, that a new neighbor moved in next door with tuberculosis, cancer, or pneumonia, we would inquire as to how we could help. But if we heard that he or she had leprosy, our first reaction would be fright.

It took a great deal of courage and determination for the leper to approach Jesus. Kneeling down he begged: If you will it, you can cure me. And so moved with pity, Jesus who had great compassion for this suffering brother stretched out His hand. "Yes, I will do it" he said. The leprosy left him then and there. An outsider was made to feel as though he belonged. Jesus touched the most untouchable of all people, a leper and he was cured.

There is such a stigma attached to the word leprosy that doctors now call it Hansen's disease after the doctor who discovered its cause. It seems that 95% of the world's population is naturally immune to Hansen's Disease. And the rest are infected only after prolonged contact. It is not clear whether the book of Leviticus in today's first reading, is speaking about Hansen's disease. But it certainly shows that people of ancient times had such a fear of leprosy that all potential cases were lumped together.

The leper's skin condition isolated him from the people around him years ago. The leper in today's Gospel reading needed healing on the outside. We need healing on the inside. Medical science has brought under control many diseases of the body, like Hansen's disease. Only Jesus can deal with the soul.

The season of Lent will soon be here. It is our annual retreat. Now is the time to prepare and make some changes in the way we live out our days. We can begin this task by recognizing that we are all God's people in need of healing. Remember that a journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step, and we are never alone. The Lord of Life is always with us no matter where we go or what we do.

**CATECHISM**  
**C**  
**O**  
**R**  
**N**  
**E**  
**R**



Good and happy Sunday St. Francis. I would like to take a pause from the Beatitudes and reflect on a very special day in our Church calendar.

This coming week we will begin a new Liturgical season of the Church calendar and it begins with Ash Wednesday – Lent. With this day, we are preparing for Easter! The word Lent itself is derived from the Anglo-Saxon words *lencten*, meaning "Spring," and *lencten-tid*, which literally means not only "Springtide" but also was the word for "March," the month in which the majority of Lent falls. Lent highlights and illumines that which should be the agenda of every day of our lives: a complete turning of our lives and our hearts to God, a true sense of sorrow for sin, and participation in our baptismal life, which is ultimately, participation in the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ.

When we "talk" of Lent, which is 40 days long, we reflect on the number "40" which has always had special spiritual significance regarding preparation. On Mount Sinai, preparing to receive the Ten Commandments, "Moses stayed there with the Lord for 40 days and 40 nights, without eating any food or drinking any water" (Ex 34:28). Elijah walked "40 days and 40 nights" to the mountain of the Lord, Mount Horeb (another name for Sinai) (1 Kgs 19:8). Most importantly, Jesus fasted and prayed for "40 days and 40 nights" in the desert before He began His public ministry (Mt 4:2).

Since the earliest times of the Church (First Century!), there is evidence of some kind of Lenten preparation for Easter. For instance, St. Irenaeus wrote about it in 203! During the 40 days of Lent, we focus our energy on turning away from sin and toward God. As with any journey, we take with us "items" to help us with the journey. These being: prayer, penance, sacrifice and good works.

When a monk named Rufinus, who was also a philosopher, historian, and theologian who worked to translate Greek Church Fathers' material (especially the work of Origen) into Latin, translated a passage from Greek into Latin, the punctuation made between "40" and "hours" made the meaning to appear to be "40 days, twenty-four hours a day." In Jerusalem, for instance, people fasted for 40 days, Monday through Friday, but not on Saturday or Sunday, thereby making Lent last for eight weeks. In Rome and in the West, people fasted for six weeks, Monday through Saturday, thereby making Lent last for six weeks. Eventually, the practice prevailed of fasting for six days a week over the course of six weeks, and Ash Wednesday was instituted to bring the number of fast days before Easter to 40. The rules of fasting varied. First, some areas of the Church abstained from all forms of meat and animal products, while others made exceptions for food like fish.

Fortunately, over the years, modifications have been made to the Lenten observances, making our practices not only simple but also easy. Ash Wednesday still marks the beginning of Lent, which lasts for 40 days, not including Sundays. The present fasting and abstinence laws are very simple: On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, the faithful fast (having only one full meal a day and smaller snacks to keep up one's strength) and abstain from meat; on the other Fridays of Lent, people are still encouraged "to give up something" for Lent as a sacrifice. (An interesting note is that technically on Sundays and solemnities like St. Joseph's Day (March 19) and the Annunciation (March 25), one is exempt and can partake of whatever has been offered up for Lent. Nevertheless, I was always taught, "If you gave something up for the Lord, tough it out. Don't act like a Pharisee looking for a loophole." (That was my Mother talking to me!) Moreover, an emphasis must be placed on performing spiritual works, like attending the Stations of the Cross, attending Mass, making a weekly holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament, taking time for personal prayer and spiritual reading and most especially making a good confession and receiving sacramental absolution. Although the practices may have evolved over the centuries, the focus for Lent remains the same: to repent of sin, to renew our faith and to prepare to celebrate joyfully the mysteries of our salvation.

Many blessings as we travel on this journey of Lent together! Keep informed by reading the bulletin for the different events at our parish of St. Francis during the Lenten Season.



### LECTIO DIVINA DURING LENT

The St. Francis Council of Catholic Women (CCW) will again offer the ancient practice of "Lectio Divina", or the reading and contemplation of sacred scripture. The sessions will be offered every Tuesday in Shea Hall beginning February 20, immediately following morning Mass (at about 9:15 am) and will last approximately 45 minutes. The session will consist of a reading of the chosen Gospel, followed by 10 minutes of private contemplation, then group interaction as to how or why this reading affects you and/or what it was trying to tell us. You are invited to bring your Bible or any other material to aid in the discussion. The Gospel to be discussed will be noted in the bulletin for that week.

**EVERYONE** is welcome to join in this practice of meditation and understanding.

### ST. FRANCIS COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

There will be a short CCW Meeting at about 10 am on February 20 following Lectio Divina. The meeting will highlight some upcoming projects and dates. All women of the parish are invited to attend.

**"But the Church was not founded for those who are perfect and have it all together. Jesus came for the sinners, the imperfect. Jesus comes every Mass in the Eucharist for you and for me."**

**ALEX BREINDEL**  
*Why I Love Being Catholic*



**DynamicCatholic.com**

### DEACON JIM SCHMALL'S CONTACT INFORMATION

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



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP  
OPEN FOR BUSINESS  
AFTER WEEKEND MASSES





### THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today Jesus moved with pity, touched the leper and healed him. Let us pray today for the grace to be generous with our gifts to help those who are suffering.

**By your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you indeed put your faith into action as you bring healing to the poor, hungry and weeping.**

Have you considered answering the call to serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul? Contact Debbie Eberhardt at 865-312-0141 for more information.

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 FEBRUARY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"



CAKE MIX & FROSTING

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> - 1:00 - 4:00 PM

# ICE CREAM



**SIGN UP  
TODAY!**

# SOCIAL

YEP! You read that right! Ice cream in FEBRUARY!!!

Save the date for having some fun with your parish family! Ice cream (with a variety of toppings) will be provided and some games, but feel free to bring a favorite game from home to share! If you have a card table you might be able to share for the afternoon—that would help a lot for those who want to play card games. We will have larger tables available for games like dominoes, puzzles, and jenga.... Please let us know how many to prepare for by signing up on the sheet hanging on the door in Shea Hall. Hope to see everyone there!



**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—2/4/2024**

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Attendance: 152

Sunday Offertory .....	\$ 5,158.00
Donation Box .....	5.00
Other Donations* .....	<u>90.00</u>
Donations for the Week .....	\$ 5,253.00

Year-to-Date Donations .....	\$ 114,836.10
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations .....	<u>113,383.82</u>
Year-to-Date Donation <b>Surplus</b> .....	<b>\$ 1,452.28</b>

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund .....	\$ 175.00
Parish Charity .....	25.00
Second Collection .....	<u>588.00</u>
Total Non-Budget Donations .....	\$ 788.00

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

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

Save the Date!



**St. Dominic Parish Mission  
Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
M-W February 26-28, 2024  
6:30-8:00 pm**

Additional information about the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is available by calling Jim and Betty MacDougall at (423) 788-9906 or at [www.sacredheartapostolate.com](http://www.sacredheartapostolate.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!).

**FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>**  
*Ash Wednesday*  
 BEGINS THE SEASON OF LENT  
**Mass and Ashes at 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM**




**SECOND COLLECTION - ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>**

On Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, a second collection will be taken up in support of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe that suffered so much under decades of harsh Soviet communist rule. Great need remains for the Church in many of these countries as they are still unable to support their own renewal and growth.

Your donation will help with the training of seminarians and lay leaders, youth ministry, pastoral and catechetical centers, schools, church construction and renovation, and evangelization through Catholic media.

Thank you for your generosity in support of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.



During Lent, please be generous in supporting Catholic Relief Services (CRS) with "Operation Rice Bowl" (ORB). Remembering that "What I give up I give to others" we are encouraged to widen the door of faith through our care for the poor. Monies collected assist CRS programs around the world with agriculture projects to help farmers improve harvests, with water projects to bring clean water to communities, with microfinance projects to support small businesses, with health and nutrition projects for expectant mothers and for children, as well as for educational projects. In addition, 25% of what is collected goes to Catholic Charities of East Tennessee to assist with its charitable programs in our diocese. Please take a Rice Bowl home with you and to your office as one of the ways to highlight the beauty of our Lenten triptych or prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

**Your Lenten alms change lives globally and in your own community.**

  
 Your donations help provide lifesaving support to more than **250 million people** in more than **120 countries.**

**75%**

of your CRS Rice Bowl donation supports our work around the world.

**25%**

of gifts stay in each U.S. diocese for hunger and poverty alleviation efforts.

 Rooted in the history of the Eucharistic Congress, CRS Rice Bowl began in 1975 as a way for families in the United States to share their blessings with communities experiencing hunger around the world.

<b>\$40</b>	<b>\$80</b>	<b>\$150</b>
for chickens that provide protein-rich eggs.	for a baby goat to provide milk and income.	for a household garden for nutrition.

**FOR LENT FOR LIFE** WHAT YOU CARE UPHOLD CHANGES LIVES.