



FEBRUARY 18, 2024 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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.)

Mon	2/19	8:30 AM	Charlie Graham
Tue	2/20	8:30 AM	Brian Barker †
Wed	2/21		NO MASS
Thu	2/22	8:30 AM	Charlotte Fernandez †
Fri	2/23	8:30 AM	Yvonne Peychal
Sat	2/24	4:00 PM	Jo Guilietti †
Sun	2/25	9:00 AM	Marion Ganley †

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, 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 The sanctuary candle lit during February 17th through February 23rd is in ***honor of David Quinn given by a thankful parishioner.*** 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: Flowers are not displayed in church during the season of Lent. If you would like to donate to the sanctuary flowers fund (for display after the season of Lent) 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



**Blessed Carlo Acutis
(1991—2006)**

“The Eucharist is the Highway to Heaven.”

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	2/19	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	2/20	9:15 AM	Lectio Divina
		10:10 AM	CCW Meeting
Wed	2/21		
Thu	2/22		
Fri	2/23		
Sat	2/24	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	2/25	9:00 AM	Mass



LENT - A TIME TO REAFFIRM OUR COVENANT WITH GOD

This week with Ash Wednesday we began the season of Lent, a time of conversion and preparation for the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. It is the right time to open our hearts and let the Holy Spirit lead us to the wilderness, in order to come out of it refreshed and willing to follow in his footsteps. Yes, Lent also involves leaving our land, leaving our securities, and walking. It is to go out to enter; enter into the eternal joy of Christ's triumph and resurrection.

Before the world began, God knew us, loved us, and called us to know and love him. We are going to hear the word "covenant" quite often over the next few Sundays. The Old Testament describes a number of covenants that God made with his people to prepare them to receive his life more fully. Time and again, however, God's people failed to uphold his covenants and, as a consequence, they separated themselves from his love and protection. Yet God loved the world so much that in the fullness of time he sent his only begotten Son to teach, to heal, and ultimately to die, establishing a new, unending covenant in his blood.

Today's first reading is about the covenant that God made with Noah and his descendants which, according to the story, included all of us – the entire human race. St. Peter in the second reading reminds us of a covenant God made with us at baptism. We enter into this covenant through baptism, and, by lives of faith, we allow the Spirit to unite us with Jesus more fully each day. We become a new creation with Christ. Having died with him, it is no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us (Galatians 2:20).

This miracle of baptism into a new covenant is prefigured in many ways in the Old Testament, but there is none more colorful than the story of Noah (Genesis 6-9). From its earliest days, the church has seen in the flood an image of the water of baptism, which washes away the sins of the flesh and gives humanity a new beginning.

Our new beginning in baptism is a participation in Jesus' life. Just as he was tested in the wilderness for forty days, we too will experience times of testing and growth. God gives us these seasons to teach us to surrender ourselves to him more fully and to show us how utterly faithful he is to his promises. He loves us so much that he will never abandon us. All he asks is that we trust him – just as Noah and his family did – to see us through the storm. One special sign God has given us to help us reaffirm our covenant is the Eucharist.

Lent is a time when we consciously go into the desert – that is when we deliberately, explicitly try to reexamine and call into question those basic attitudes, values, and assumptions on which we base our lives and our behaviors. In the measure we experience conversion during this time, and reshape and reform our lives, we will come more fully into the reign of God and into the fulfillment that he promises.

Lent is a holy time, but it will only be holy for us if we make it holy. As Jesus tells us in today's gospel, "This is a time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand".



CATECHISM**CORNER**

This Corner we will “talk” about the Beatitude of *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

Today’s guest writer is Pope Francis! Yes, you read that right! These are excerpts from a 2020 General Audience Address. ENJOY!

“There is a peculiar aspect to this beatitude. It is the only one in which the cause and the fruit of happiness coincide: mercy. Those who show mercy will find mercy, they will be “shown mercy.” This theme of reciprocity of forgiveness is not found only in this Beatitude but is recurrent throughout the Gospels.

How could it be otherwise? Mercy is the very heart of God! Jesus says: “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive and you will be forgiven” (Lk 6:37). It is always the same reciprocity. And the Letter of James states that “mercy triumphs over judgment” (James 2:13).

But it is above all in the “Lord’s Prayer” that we pray: “forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors” (Mt 6:12); and this question is taken up again at the end: “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses (Mt 6:14-15; cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2838).

Where does our mercy come from? Jesus told us: “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Lk ;6: 36). The more one welcomes the love of the Father, the more one loves (cf. ;CCC, 2842). Mercy is not one dimension among others, but rather it is at the center of Christian life: there is no Christianity without mercy. If all our Christianity does not lead us to mercy, we have taken the wrong path, because mercy is the only true destination of every spiritual journey. It is one of the most beautiful fruits of charity (cf. ;CCC, 1829).

I remember that this theme was chosen from the first Angelus that I had to say as Pope: mercy. And this has remained very much impressed on me, as a message that as Pope I should always have given, a message that must be given everyday: mercy. I remember that day I also had the somewhat “shameless” attitude of advertising a book on mercy, that had just been published by Cardinal Kasper. And that day I felt so strongly that this is the message I must give, as Bishop of Rome: mercy, mercy, please, forgive. The mercy of God is our liberation and our happiness. We live on mercy and we cannot afford to be without mercy: it is the air we breathe. We are too poor to set conditions, we need to forgive, because we need to be forgiven.”

From Pope Francis’ General Audience Address Wednesday, 18 March 2020.

As we continue our Lenten journey, I would like to suggest some weekly (when there’s room of course!) “advice” to help you with your three disciplines of Lent: **FAST** from putting yourself first today — no matter where you are or what you are doing, put the needs of the “other” in front of your own. **PRAY** for preachers and social activists today who are trying to make the world a better place from the ground up. **GIVE** (almsgiving) today by making yourself an action plan of weekly activities you will do post-Lent to help others.



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.

Tuesday, February 20th Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:43-48

EVERYONE is welcome to join in this practice of mediation 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.



To do penance means above all to reestablish the balance and harmony broken by sin, to change direction even at the cost of sacrifice.

—Pope St. John Paul II
from *Reconciliatio et Paenitentia*

Strengthen your Lent this year with the sacrament of reconciliation: Saturdays before Mass (3:00 - 3:40); Sundays before Mass (8:15 - 8:40); and by appointment.



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP
OPEN FOR BUSINESS
AFTER WEEKEND MASSES

DEACON JIM SCHMALL'S CONTACT INFORMATION

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

*Catechesis for the soul...
Comfort for the heart ...
and maybe even some coffee!*

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH
1:00 PM
PARISH RESOURCE CENTER**

Get your Lenten journey off to a great start by joining your parish family in lively, thought-provoking discussions centered around Gus Lloyd's Apologetics CD series.

Please feel free to bring your catechisms and/or bibles (a few can be made available).

Weekly, Wednesday sessions will last around 45-60 minutes. Any questions, please contact Julie Dew: 954-749-3929; jdewtn2018@att.net





THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel, Jesus overcomes the temptations to wealth, power and esteem. As we begin Lent, may we open our hearts to the grace of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

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

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 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 FEBRUARY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"



CAKE MIX & FROSTING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH - 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—2/11/2024

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Attendance: 139

Sunday Offertory	\$ 3,198.00
Donation Box.....	0.00
Other Donations*.....	<u>225.00</u>
Donations for the Week.....	\$ 3,423.00

Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 118,259.10
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations	<u>116,919.83</u>
Year-to-Date Donation Surplus	\$ 1,339.27

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$ 65.00
Parish Charity.....	455.00
Second Collection	<u>0.00</u>
Total Non-Budget Donations	\$ 520.00

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

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

LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE



Fasting

Ash Wednesday
Good Friday

Ages 18-59

Abstinence

Every Friday
during Lent

Ages 14+

How do we fast?

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

Am I excused from fasting and abstinence?

Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the **physically** or **mentally ill** including individuals suffering from **chronic illnesses** such as **diabetes**. Also excluded are **pregnant** or **nursing women**.

For more information on fasting and abstinence, visit uscgb.org.



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Lent



What is Lent? Lent is the 40 days (not including Sundays) of prayer and penance leading to Easter.



What are the pillars of Lent?

PRAYER, listening and responding to God's call, deepens our relationship to God and draws the heart closer to His will.

FASTING is a means of self-discipline, chastity, and the restraining of the appetites. Though it is refraining from food, fasting also includes refraining from sin and reflecting on one's dependence on God.

ALMSGIVING involves donating money or goods to the poor and performing acts of charity. According to the catechism, almsgiving is "a work of justice pleasing to God" (CCC 2462).

Lent is a time of prolonged penance for committing ourselves to fulfill our baptismal call to holiness, service, and community. At the heart of all penance is the call to conversion. In the words of Christ: **"Repent, and believe the gospel!" (Mark 1:15).**



SECOND COLLECTION - FEBRUARY 17 & 18 BLACK AND INDIAN MISSIONS

A second collection will be taken up this weekend to help provide Catholic education and seminary tuition assistance for minority communities in our diocese. Thank you for your generosity in helping to make Catholic education possible for minority communities.



SECOND COLLECTION - ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

On Ash Wednesday, February 14th, a second collection was taken up in support of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe that has suffered so much under decades of harsh Soviet communist rule. As a parish, the money we collected will go toward restoring the Church and building the future in more than 25 countries. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give. Visit www.usccb.org/ccee.

#iGiveCatholicTogether (<https://usccb.igivecatholictogether.org/organizations/usccb-church-in-central-and-eastern-europe>) also accepts funds for this collection

if you prefer to donate online.

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.

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.