



FEBRUARY 25, 2024 SECOND 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	2/26	8:30 AM	Charlotte Fernandez†
Tue	2/27	8:30 AM	Brian Barker†
Wed	2/28		NO MASS
Thu	2/29	8:30 AM	Josephine Simons†
Fri	3/1	8:30 AM	Virginia Anderson †, Marion Ganley†
Sat	3/2	4:00 PM	Ralph Modica†
Sun	3/3	9:00 AM	Ed Welsh

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 February 24 through March 1 is in **Memory of Virginia Anderson and Marion Ganley.** 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



From the Holy Mass

“Lord, I am not worthy to receive You, but only say the word, and my soul shall be healed.”

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	2/26	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	2/27	9:15 AM	Lectio Divina
Wed	2/28	1:00 PM	Gus Lloyd Apologetics Series
Thu	2/29		
Fri	3/1	9:00 AM	Adoration
Sat	3/2	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	3/3	9:00 AM	Mass



DEACON'S NOTES

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

How appropriate is it that all three of our readings today involve mountains? Someone once called this particular Sunday the “Sunday of the three mountains.” We have Abraham on Mount Moriah, the redeeming Christ on Mount Calvary, and the Transfigured Christ on Mount Tabor. We are invited to climb these mountains during Lent. Mountain climbing is hard but when we reach the top, we see things in a different way. The air is cleaner, the light is clearer, we seem closer to God, and we are changed by the effort.

Let’s look at these three mountains.

First, there is Mount Moriah. In his old age, Abraham was called by God to leave the people of the Chaldeans and go to a place God intended. Abraham followed. At the top of Mount Moriah, Abraham finally and completely left all the old gods of the Chaldeans behind.

We are called during Lent to abandon the worship of the gods of our culture (when we allow the politics, the entertainment, and the cultural permissiveness of our time to direct our lives and values) and to discover again our fidelity to the one true God.

The call to us of Mount Moriah is service to the true God alone.

St. Paul in the second reading speaks about Christ’s love for us shown on Mount Calvary. During Lent, we are called to embrace more fully the love of Jesus Christ and see Him as our only Savior. Several years ago, the Holy See issued a document on contemporary “new age thinking” and its contrast with Christianity. One of the points the document makes is that new age thinking is not a clearly defined school of thought but a kind of atmosphere that surrounds us and influences our thinking.

The call to us of Mount Calvary is to embrace the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ as our key to life.

Finally, there is Mount Tabor, the mountain of the Transfiguration that revealed something stupendous to the apostles. We can limit our vision and our hope to this world as the apostles did, but Jesus took them up a high mountain. Once there, He started to change, first His clothing, then He Himself...

Though they didn’t fully understand it all, they looked at themselves and each other and they realized there was more to their future than they could imagine. They knew that one day they too would shine. This world is not all there is for us.

The call of Mount Tabor to them and to us is to trust in the glory that awaits us.

Three mountains — Mount Moriah, Mount Calvary, Mount Tabor. Which one do you need to climb this Lent?

CATECHISM

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Good and happy Sunday St. Francis! This Sunday we will be reflecting on the Beatitude of Blessed are the clean (or pure) of heart, for they will see God. This Beatitude speaks of those whose hearts are simple, pure and undefiled, for a heart capable of love admits nothing that might harm, weaken or endanger that love. The Bible uses the heart to describe our real intentions, the things we truly seek and desire, apart from all appearances. (Please read 1Sam 16:7; Hos 2:16; Ezek36:26.)

“The Old Testament is full of purity rules aimed at keeping the Israelites from ritual defilement. The modern, post-Enlightenment view concurs that the regulations are no longer binding. But instead of looking to Christ as the reason they are outmoded, that view simply dismisses them as the savage taboos of a bunch of primitives that have been overcome by the spirit of progress. The point of the Old Testament purity laws was that God took this natural human impulse to say, “Ick” to regard certain things as “defiling” – and as with many other natural things, raised it by grace to teach a spiritual lesson” (from the book Salt and Light by Mark Shea).

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God”. This is what Jesus spoke this during His famous Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:8). So, what did Jesus mean by “pure in heart?” Let’s look at some of the Greek words:

The Greek word for “pure” in Matthew 5:8 is *katharos*. It means to be “clean, blameless, unstained from guilt.” Interestingly, the word can refer specifically to that which is purified by fire or by pruning. John the Baptist told people that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire (Matthew 3:11). The Prophet Malachi speaks of the Messiah as being like a “refiner’s fire” (Malachi 3:2). Jesus refers to believers as being the branches and to Himself as being the vine (John 15:1-17). For a vine to produce fruit, it must be pruned. Those who are truly “pure,” then, are those who have been declared innocent because of the work of Jesus and who are being sanctified by His refining fire and His pruning.

The Greek word for “heart” in Matthew 5:8 is *kardeeah*. This can be applied to the physical heart. But it also refers to the spiritual center of life (heart of it). It is where thoughts, desires, sense of purpose, will, understanding, and character reside. Being pure in heart involves having a singleness of heart toward God. A pure heart has no hypocrisy, no guile, no hidden motives. The pure heart is marked by transparency and an uncompromising desire to please God in all things. It is more than an external purity of behavior; it is an internal purity of soul.

The only way we can be truly pure in heart is to give our lives to Jesus and ask Him to do the cleansing work. Psalm 51:10 says, “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and steadfast spirit within me.” A steadfast spirit is needed to keep a new heart clean. It is a reliance on God in humility that asks for grace to sin no more, which we receive through the Sacrament of Confession.

Cleanness of heart is a gift of God, which expresses itself in a capacity to love, in having an upright and pure attitude to everything noble. A heart that loves God and neighbor, genuinely and not merely in words, is a pure heart; it can see God. Certainly, there can be no love without works of love, but this Beatitude reminds us that the Lord expects a commitment to our brothers and sisters that comes from the heart. (Here’s where I plug our St. Vincent de Paul Society!) From the heart’s intentions come the desires and the deepest decisions that determine our actions.

As you go about your day, please reflect on this: Keeping a heart free of all that tarnishes love: that is holiness.

Here is this week’s “advice” to help you with your three disciplines of Lent: **FAST** from hesitation today. **PRAY** for the courage and bravery to take action when you see something that is wrong. **GIVE** (almsgiving) at least five positive and uplifting comments to others face to face or on social media today.

Have a most blessed week filled with the love and peace of our Savior, Jesus the Christ!



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 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 27th Gospel Reading: Matthew 23:1-12

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



Lent is a time of truth. Christians, called by the Church to prayer, penance, fasting and self-sacrifice, place themselves before God and recognize themselves; they rediscover themselves.

—Pope St. John Paul II
from his Lenten Message, 1981

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

Lent is a call not just to “give up something” but more important to “give something for the poor.” Wherever you live in the parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell.

Your almsgiving in the St. Vincent de Paul poor box will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God’s love this Easter.

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 MARCH “PRODUCT OF THE MONTH”



PAPER TOWELS & KLEENEX

FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Friday, March 1

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

If you are interested in committing to a Holy Hour for First Friday Eucharistic Adoration, please contact Jackie Wagner at 330-807-8663.



STICKERS FOR TOWNSEND ELEMENTARY

SVDP recently replenished school supplies for teachers at Townsend Elementary School. One of their requests which was not filled by the Society was for stickers. You know - the ones teachers, parents, etc. give out for rewards or that kids use to decorate pictures, books, etc. If you would like to purchase some to donate to the school, please drop them off in our Product of the Month basket. These should be stickers that are appropriate for boys and girls from age 4 through 12.



MARCH 2 & 3 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.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

A second collection will be taken up on March 9 & 10 to support the work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Bishops and Catholic community. With your generosity, CRS is helping to break the cycle of poverty in more than 90 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. CRS also provides emergency relief in the wake of natural disasters. Your donation also assists the work of the U.S. Bishops' Offices of International Justice and Peace, Migration and Refugee Services and Pastoral Care, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, and the relief work of the Holy Father.



WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—2/14/2024 & 2/18/2024

Ash Wednesday Attendance: 106
1st Sunday in Lent Attendance: 144

Sunday Offertory	\$ 1,882.00
Ash Wednesday Offertory	961.63
Donation Box.....	5.00
Other Donations*	<u>270.00</u>
Donations for the Week.....	\$ 3,118.63

Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 121,377.73
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations	<u>120,455.84</u>
Year-to-Date Donation Surplus	\$ 921.89

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$ 25.00
Parish Charity.....	80.00
Church in Central & Eastern Europe	788.86
Black & Indian Missions	<u>903.00</u>
Total Non-Budget Donations	\$ 1,796.86

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

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

In Memory of Cam King



Our long-time parishioner,
Cam King,
passed away peacefully on
Thursday, February 22.
She was truly loved by everyone and
will be greatly missed.

At this time, no funeral arrangements have been made. Details will be provided when available.

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?

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.

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

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).

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 uscbb.org.



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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.