



FEBRUARY 4, 2024 FIFTH 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 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	2/5	8:30 AM	Chris Gibson †
Tue	2/6	8:30 AM	Kerry & Michael O'Brien † Communion Service
Wed	2/7	NO MORNING MASS	
Thu	2/8	8:30 AM	Debbie Mannino †
Fri	2/9	8:30 AM	Brian Barker †
Sat	2/10	4:00 PM	Joseph & Gwendolyn Gagliano †
Sun	2/11	9:00 AM	Norman A. Weiland †

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: The sanctuary flowers for February 3rd through February 13th have been **donated by Eric and Gail Simons in memory of Debbie Mannino.** 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. John Bosco
(1815 - 1888)**

“There are two things the devil is deathly afraid of: fervent Communion and frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament.”

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	2/5	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	2/6		
Wed	2/7		
Thu	2/8		
Fri	2/9		
Sat	2/10	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	2/11	9:00 AM	Mass

Birthday Blessings to Fr. Antonio! February 2nd





THE HEALING PRESENCE OF JESUS

Today's gospel from Mark gives an account of Jesus' ministry of healing. When Jesus is curing diseases and casting out demons, it is obvious that he has the gift of performing miracles, a gift that can only come from God. If you are not paying enough attention, you could almost miss all the things Jesus does in this gospel reading today. First, he cures Simon's mother-in-law. He then cures others of illness and casts out demons.

He next heads to a deserted place to pray while crowds try to find him. He then goes to nearby villages to preach in synagogues and drive out more demons. The demons know who he really is, the Son of God, the divine Messiah. If he is proclaimed as Messiah when he is performing miracles, the hearers will assume that he is a miracle-worker.

However, miracle-worker is only a part of the story. For Jesus to be Messiah ultimately means betrayal, suffering and death. The Scripture readings today give us a reality check. Our gospel shows how Jesus knew the reality of his life that included rejection, suffering, and death as well as glory and divine power.

The reality of life that our readings today teach us is the experience of each of us in the human family. We all have good days and bad days, successes and failures, times of joy and times of sorrow. For some the sorrow seems never-ending and life looks absolutely hopeless. The only real help we have in avoiding despair is our Christian faith. Because of the salvation we have in Christ, we know evil will not triumph at the end.

From the beginning, the Church has had a sacrament to pray for the sick but in later centuries it was used only to prepare people for death. The sacrament is based on the words of St. James in his epistle—when someone is sick they should call for the priests of the church and be anointed with oil. Gratefully, Vatican II restored it to its original purpose of praying for healing. It is still given when a person is near death because it is also a source of spiritual healing, grace, and peace.

The victory of Easter has to go through the events of Good Friday. Jesus embraced the human experience from birth to death. He gave us a powerful example. He knew the reality of our lives and showed us how to move in and through our days with faith and gratitude.

The gospel of Mark reminds us that genuine actions are always going to speak louder than bold and fancy language. Those who met Jesus were healed by him, and those who heard his words knew the champion was in their presence. They knew their lives would be forever changed by their encounter with Jesus. Mark just does not waste time telling you about it. What a precious message our Lord gives us today.

JESUS THE HEALER
HEALING FOR OUR SPIRITS, OUR BODIES & OUR WORLD

CATECHISM

CORNER



Hello and blessed Sunday St. Francis friends. Today in the Catechism Corner, we will concentrate on the Beatitude of *“Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.”*

Right away people may think about physical hunger and thirst, but when Jesus adds “for righteousness” it has an entirely different meaning!

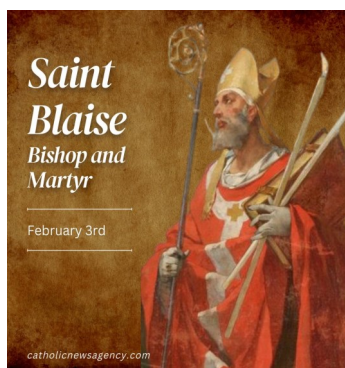
In this verse, Jesus is referring to a spiritual hunger and thirst: a runaway impulse towards righteousness. In other words, having a desire so intense that if you do not fulfill it, something in you will die. St Jerome says our “Lord is asking us not simply to have a vague desire for righteousness: we should hunger and thirst for it, that is, we should love and strive earnestly to seek what makes a man righteous in God’s eyes. A person who genuinely wants to attain Christian holiness should love the means which the Church, the universal vehicle of salvation, offers all men and teaches them to use — frequent use of the sacraments, an intimate relationship with God in prayer, a valiant effort to meet one’s social, professional and family responsibilities.”

Many people are hungry and sometimes our hunger can be misguided. Some people hunger for prestige, power, fame, status, recognition, affection, etc., but they are looking to quench their hunger in the wrong places. Righteousness, in the language of the Bible, is the same as what nowadays is usually called “holiness”. Here are some Scripture passages that will help you understand:

- 1 Jn 2:29; 3:7-10;
- Rev 22:11;
- Gen 15:6;
- Deuteronomy 9:4

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that the Beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus’ preaching and fulfill the promises made to the chosen people since Abraham. The Beatitudes depict the countenance of Jesus Christ and portray his charity. They express the vocation of the faithful associated with the glory of his Passion and Resurrection; they shed light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life; they are the paradoxical promises that sustain hope in the midst of tribulations; they proclaim the blessings and rewards already secured, however dimly, for Christ’s disciples; they have begun in the lives of the Virgin Mary and all the saints. So, regarding the specific beatitude *“Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied,”* the Catechism of the Catholic Church explains that those who have entered into Christ will suffer a great deal of hunger and thirst, because there is so much injustice around us. The more intense your love, the more intense your hunger and thirst; blessed are you if you live with this kind of hunger and thirst, because that means you have entered into the hunger and thirst of Christ. (Catholiceducation.org)

Have a most wonderful week with the peace and joy that can only come from our Savior, Jesus the Christ!



FEAST OF ST. BLAISE, BISHOP AND MARTYR FEBRUARY 3RD

St Blaise was the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia who was martyred in the year 316 AD. The oldest accounts tell us that Blaise was a physician at Sebaste before he was made bishop. In the 4th century persecution of Licinius, St. Blaise was taken prisoner. After suffering various forms of torture he was beheaded.

The most popular story attributed to St. Blaise occurred while he was in prison, when he cured a young boy who was in danger of choking to death because of a fishbone in his throat. That story, and the fact that St.

Blaise was a doctor, made the saint very popular for intercessory prayer for throat ailments.

At an early date, the veneration of this Eastern saint was brought into Europe, and Blaise became one of the most popular saints of the Middle Ages. Countless churches and altars have been dedicated to him.

The blessing of St. Blaise will be offered after Masses this weekend.

The blessing of the throat is carried out using two white taper candles that were blessed on the previous day, February 2, the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas Day). The white color of the candles symbolizes purity. A red ribbon draped over the base of the candles symbolizes the martyrdom of St. Blaise. The candles are grasped in an X-shape and held up to the throat of the person receiving the blessing:

*“Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr,
may God deliver you from every disease of the throat
and from every other illness,
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”*

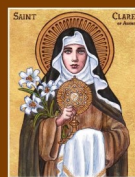


SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA

Thank you for your generous support for last week's Collection for the Church in Latin America. As a parish, we collected \$588.00 to share the faith with our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean, so they in turn can share the Good News in their communities. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/latin-america. #iGiveCatholicTogether also accepts funds for the collection - see usccb.igivecatholictogether.org. Your gift makes a difference!

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, we find that Jesus would rise very early before dawn and go to a deserted place to pray and then he went out to preach and to heal.

Please pray for the poor and suffering, knowing that you are bringing the love and peace of Jesus to those who live in fear and doubt, loneliness and dread.

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

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH - 1:00 - 4:00 PM

ICE CREAM



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—1/28/2024

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Attendance: 146

Sunday Offertory	\$ 3,333.00
Donation Box	20.00
Other Donations*	<u>460.00</u>
Donations for the Week	\$ 3,813.00

Year-to-Date Donations	\$ 109,583.10
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations	<u>109,847.81</u>
Year-to-Date Donation Deficit	\$ 264.71

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

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 or by contacting Tome Ciaccia at 865-765-4046 or 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!).



FEBRUARY 14TH

Ash Wednesday

BEGINS THE SEASON OF LENT

Mass and Ashes at 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM



Support the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

RESTORE THE CHURCH
BUILD THE FUTURE

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SECOND COLLECTION - ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

On Ash Wednesday, February 14th, 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.

What does your donation provide?	\$40	\$80	\$150
	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