



## MARCH 10, 2024 FOURTH 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

<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 (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>3/11</b>	8:30 AM	
<b>Tue</b>	<b>3/12</b>	8:30 AM	Joyce Welsh
<b>Wed</b>	<b>3/13</b>		<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Thu</b>	<b>3/14</b>	8:30 AM	Carrie Qualkenbush
<b>Fri</b>	<b>3/15</b>	8:30 AM	Brian Barker†
<b>Sat</b>	<b>3/16</b>	4:00 PM	John Peychal
<b>Sun</b>	<b>3/17</b>	9:00 AM	Zack Bell Jr., Natalie & Joseph Watson

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, David Holmes, Amy Frink, Myra Montero, Robert Modisett, Mary Sellers, Claire Cheadle, Elise Martin, Mike Scully, Paul Fain, Joyce Fain, Normand Messier, Jr., Raymond Payne, Sue Ann Tippitt, Charles Tippitt, Emmanuel Nwadike, Julie Schirack, Kay Walker, Jay Ladner, Denise Robey, Kathy Luck, Peggy Groves

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** The sanctuary candle is for a ***Special Intention for Carrie Qualkenbush given by Father Antonio.*** 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**



**St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622)**

*“When the bee has gathered the dew of heaven and the earth’s sweetest nectar from the flowers, it turns it into honey, then hastens to its hive. In the same way, the priest, having taken from the altar the Son of God (who is as the dew from heaven, and true son of Mary, flower of our humanity), gives him to you as delicious food.”*

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>3/11</b>	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
<b>Tue</b>	<b>3/12</b>	9:15 AM	Lectio Divina
<b>Wed</b>	<b>3/13</b>	1:00 PM	Gus Lloyd Apologetics Series
<b>Thu</b>	<b>3/14</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>3/15</b>	5:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
<b>Sat</b>	<b>3/16</b>	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>3/17</b>	9:00 AM	Mass



## LAETARE SUNDAY

Here in the U.S. Mass is said in English. If you go to a foreign country, you will hear a Mass said in the language of that particular country. Mass used to be said in Latin all over the world. That is because Latin was and still is the official language of the Roman Catholic Church. Every now and then you will hear a word or phrase in Latin during mass. The Fourth Sunday of Lent is known as Laetare Sunday. Laetare is the Latin word for "Rejoice."

This term is not exclusive to Catholics. Many protestant churches celebrate Laetare Sunday as well. While the season of Lent is a solemn and reflective season, the church recognizes that people need a break from all this sorrow.

This past Thursday of the third week of Lent marked the halfway point of the Lenten season. As such, we use Laetare Sunday as a day of celebration to "lighten the mood" so to speak.

The Phrase "Laetare Jerusalem" comes from Isaiah 66:10-11: "Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exalt and be satisfied at her consoling breast." This is the entrance antiphon from today's Mass. On Laetare Sunday, the purple vestments and altar cloths of Lent are set aside, and rose ones are used instead. Flowers, which are normally forbidden during Lent, may be placed on the altar.

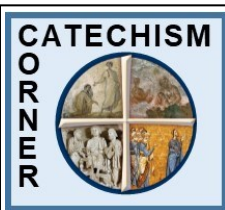
The season of Advent in preparing for Christmas and the birth of the Christ Child also has a similar celebration. This takes place on Gaudate Sunday or the third Sunday of Advent. The reason for these two days is to give us hope as we move towards the end of each penitential season. It is almost as if we have crested a hill and can see our final destination. That is the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Laetare, Jerusalem!



## CALL TO PARTICIPATE IN LATEST PHASE OF SYNOD: LISTENING SESSIONS

As part of our commitment to fulfill Pope Francis' call to synodality, the diocese has scheduled two listening sessions open to anyone who would like to participate--- on Saturday, March 16 at 10:30 a.m. and Tuesday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the chancery in Knoxville. Efforts are being made to allow limited Zoom participation. Additionally, participants can respond to an **online survey at [dioknox.org](https://dioknox.org)**. Your participation will allow the diocese to produce a final report for the October 2024 Synod of Bishops in Rome. Please visit [dioknox.org](https://dioknox.org) for more information and learn how to participate.



Welcome to the Fifth Sunday of Lent St. Francis! The Doctors of the Church, especially St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas, explained the “beatitudes” with which the Savior begins his Sermon on the Mount in great and profound detail. There is no room to go over their whole teaching here. Suffice it to say that the Lord begins his teaching with the ultimate goal of the Christian life: a holiness that leads to eternal happiness or beatitude. Today we will focus on the last beatitude, which is a summary of the other seven. “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

But the patient undergoing of persecution and trial is the summary of them all. This is simply because if we are able to stand up under trial and misunderstanding and persecution, we will surely observe all the other beatitudes, rejecting a false happiness and embracing the goods of the active life and the final heavenly life. How can I endure persecution and so enjoy the reward of perseverance? Our “persecution” today will be more likely sarcastic remarks about being a “religious nut” or if we make a stand for life and against abortion we are called “fanatics”. Courageous people of all ages suffer ridicule simply for being chaste, believing in abstinence before marriage or standing up for justice and equality and the values of Christ many in the world do not accept.

Persecution takes on different forms. First of all, even if we are not being visibly or socially persecuted by other human beings, we are all pursued and tried by the efforts of the evil one. Temptation is a form of persecution by the evil one, and so it is that we pray in the Lord’s Prayer, “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One” as the original Greek of the Gospels has it.

None of the saints made their way to heaven by following the Savior without being instructed and equipped and strengthened by God’s word. How can we endure persecution and so enjoy the reward of perseverance? How can we become saints today? Well, let’s start by taking out our Bible and reading it, examining the readings that the Church offers us each day for our defense and instruction in a world of very bad news. Faithfully meditating on the word of God found in the scriptures equips us for this struggle, since God’s word is, as the apostle tells us, a “two-edged sword” that can defend us from the attacks of evil men and of the devil who instigates their attempts to separate us from the way of Christ Jesus.

In summary, the first seven teach us what actions, under the influence of the virtues and gifts of the Holy Spirit, merit an eternal reward. The first three merit eternal life by overcoming a false kind of happiness found in possessions and worldly power, or in pleasures, or in the assertion of one’s own grumpy will; the fourth and fifth by engaging in the active life of acquiring virtue and doing good to one’s neighbor; and the sixth and seventh in the contemplative life of knowledge of God and inner and outer peace of soul. Each happy-making action has its corresponding reward.

Please reflect on this quote by St. Mother Teresa which relates to this Beatitude: “One cannot expect to become a saint without paying the price, and the price is much renunciation, much temptation, much struggle and persecution, and all sorts of sacrifices. One cannot love God except at the cost of oneself.”

Here is this week’s “advice” to help you with your three disciplines of Lent: **FAST** from watching any television today. **PRAY** for the souls of friends and loved ones who have died. **GIVE** (almsgiving) by putting someone else’s needs before your own today.



### 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, March 12th Gospel Reading: John 7:40-53**

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

### 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!



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

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13TH  
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

**GUS LLOYD**  
CATHOLIC *Apologetics*



### SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SUMMERTIME WES TEAM EVENT!

**What:** Tennessee Smokies Baseball Game w/fireworks  
**When:** Friday, July 26; 6:00 pm  
**Where:** Yee-Haw at the Yard; TN Smokies Stadium  
**Cost:** \$35 for adults, \$33 for children (12 and under)

*More information to follow in May.*



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel, God demonstrates great love for us by sending his Son so that we may believe in him. We demonstrate our great love for God by doing good works: reaching out to others, acting in justice and charity.

**Through your almsgiving you are performing a good work; far greater than you think. Know that your nickel, dime, quarter or dollar is multiplied by coins placed by others in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box.**

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 MARCH "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"



**PAPER TOWELS & KLEENEX**

### OLD PALMS AND BLESSED ARTICLES



Old palms and any blessed articles must be disposed of by either burning them or burying them. If you have any old palms or blessed articles that need to be disposed of, please bring them to church on Palm Sunday or during Holy week and place them in the basket marked "Easter Vigil Fire" in the church alcove. These items will be burned in the Easter Vigil Fire on Holy Saturday.

### 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.

4th Lenten Friday Stations of the Cross

March 15th

Facilitated by **Music Ministry**

5:00 PM Stations of the Cross  
~5:45 PM Meatless Lenten Dinner  
& Lenten Reflection

### Retreat into the Passion of Jesus



**CATHOLIC CONFERENCE CENTER**  
March 22-23

Visit: [www.catholicconference.org/passion](http://www.catholicconference.org/passion)

## SVDP EASTER FOOD BASKETS

A big **Thank You** to our parishioners for supplying cold cereal for our last food distribution. On March 21, St. Vincent de Paul will be giving away their Easter Food Baskets to their Neighbors in Need. Most of the food is being provided by the generous donations of IGA customers who buy “prepared” bags with these food items. However, we are asking any parishioners who would care to assist, to drop off bags of Easter candy—Peeps, Jelly Beans, Chocolate Easter Eggs or any other bagged Easter candy. Please leave your donation in the Product of the Month basket in Shea Hall.



## WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—3/3/2024

3rd Sunday of Lent Attendance: 155

Sunday Offertory .....	\$ 4,276.00
Donation Box.....	20.00
Other Donations*.....	408.00
Donations for the Week.....	\$ 4,704.00

Year-to-Date Donations .....	\$ 128,688.73
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations .....	127,527.86
Year-to-Date Donation <b>Surplus</b> .....	\$ 1,160.87

### Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund .....	\$ 1,629.00
Parish Charity.....	0.00
Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl.....	125.00
Total Non-Budget Donations .....	\$ 1,754.00

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

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

## TWO ENGAGING EASTER RETREATS

The Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, NC, is offering two unique retreats in the hope that one will be just right for you.

The first will have reflections on how to live out the practical holiness taught by St. Francis de Sales: ***Living a Devout Life (in a Crazy World); April 26-28.***

The second will be a blend of preaching, prayer, and crafts on the Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit: ***Kindle in Me the Fire of Your Love; April 19-20.***

Find out more at [www.catholicconference.org](http://www.catholicconference.org), email [info@catholicconference.org](mailto:info@catholicconference.org), or call 828.327.7441.

Most of our guests find the much-needed spiritual renewal of a retreat by seeing a notice in their church bulletin. Thank you for your help and support of our ministry.

## Marriage Retreat



*Saturday, June 15 at St. Thomas*

### LIVING THE MARRIAGE GOD DESIRES FOR YOU

A full-day retreat presented by Bruce and Marybel Carlisle that's designed to help you reflect, refocus, and rejuvenate your marriage.

- Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. Retreat starts at 9:00 a.m. with Daily Mass (optional).
- Concludes at 4:30 p.m. (optional Vigil Mass at 5:00 p.m.)
- Continental breakfast and lunch included.
- Married couples at all stages of life are welcome. To focus on your marriage, kindly no children.
- Cost is \$86/couple. Registration deadline is June 9th.
- Overnight accommodations available at local hotels. See retreat registration page for a complete list.

Visit [tinyurl.com/KnoxMarriageRetreat](http://tinyurl.com/KnoxMarriageRetreat) for more info or to register.

LOCATION: 1580 St. Thomas Way | Lenoir City, TN 37772  
 QUESTIONS: [regnumchristi.knoxville@gmail.com](mailto:regnumchristi.knoxville@gmail.com)



REGISTER TODAY



# 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](http://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.



## ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

Please stop by the St. Clare Gift Shop after mass to see all of the new items for sale. As we observe Lent and prepare for Easter, there are many items available for your journey through Lent to the celebration of Easter. If you would like to visit the shop during the week, it can be opened any weekday after morning mass or by appointment by calling the office.

