

MARCH 17, 2024 FIFTH 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.

<u>BULLETIN DEADLINE:</u> Please email Microsoft Word articles to **sfabulletin7717@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!

<u>PASTORAL CARE AT St. Francis of Assisi:</u> 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 3/18 8:30 AM Michael Rizzi † 8:30 AM Charlie Graham Tue 3/19 Wed 3/20 **NO MASS** Thu 3/21 8:30 AM Ruth Flayter + 3/22 Pat Baker † Fri 8:30 AM Sat 3/23 4:00 PM Rebecca Clearman † 3/24 Sun 9:00 AM Mary Anne Ackerman Zells

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 Montera, 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.

SANCTUARY CANDLE The sanctuary candle is for a Special Intention for the Svoboda Family given by Mike Polak. If you

Kathy Luck, Peggy Groves, Deb Koehler, Laken DuRussel

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.

NSWERED

"Thanks to all St. Francis parishioners who remembered our son, Tony Foster, with prayer. He was diagnosed two summers ago with a fatal immune disease attacking his kidneys and given 18 months of possible remission with high dose steroids and chemotherapy. However, last April, a high fever required stoppage of all medication. His latest lab work shows improvement despite no medical treatment. His nephrologist said he has never seen it or read about it and says it can only be Divine intervention! Bless you All!" Ron and Charlie Graham.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

3/18	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
3/19	9:15 AM	Lectio Divina
3/20	1:00 PM	Gus Lloyd Apologetics Series
	5:00 PM	SVdP Meeting
3/21		
3/22	5:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
3/23	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
3/24	9:00 AM	Mass
	3/19 3/20 3/21 3/22 3/23	3/19 9:15 AM 3/20 1:00 PM 5:00 PM 3/21 3/22 5:00 PM 3/23 4:00 PM

ALL CROSSES ARE TEMPORARY



Today's gospel takes place on Palm Sunday in Jerusalem. When people heard Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, many who were impressed with Jesus' miracles, especially the raising of Lazarus, and many who were there to celebrate Passover, gathered around him and escorted him into Jerusalem with palms, chanting "Hosanna to the Son of David." His enemies, filled with jealousy, had gone after him. This is where the events in today's gospel begins.

The gospel tells us some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover feast wanted to see Jesus. This request from foreigners, non-Jews, to see Jesus was a sign for him that his hour had come. He had come to save all people and he knew he had to die in order to reach all people. He knew his death would be the most tortuous form of death ever devised by human beings, yet he refers to it as his glorification. "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." He would be glorified in his faithfulness to his Father's work, he would be glorified in laying down his life for all of us whom he loved. He would be glorified in his resurrection.

Just picture for a moment a common grain of wheat. It appears inert and lifeless, yet we know that inside its hard, outer shell is a germ of life waiting to come forth. We also know that the only way this life can be brought out is by placing the seed in the darkness of the earth. Silently, life springs forth and produces much fruit. Like a seed planted in the ground, he had to die to what he was in order to live in a new way. He had to die to this life so he could fill the whole world with his presence and his grace.

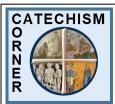
John tied this theme of the seed dying to that of Jesus' "hour" – the moment toward which Jesus' whole life had been directed. This moment was not the result of haphazard events and forces; it was an hour over which Jesus had absolute control. It was his hour, the hour when, like the grain of wheat, he would die and bear much fruit. Jesus was the seed, and his hour was the time of his passion.

It is clear that we cannot understand these words as just an exhortation to deny ourselves. To do so would be to fail to grasp the absolute necessity of Jesus' death. Apart from his sacrificial death, there can be no fruit. The key to our bearing fruit is to recognize that, as believers, we have died with Jesus. The Holy Spirit will reveal this truth to us as we put to death those things that stand in the way of our life

in Christ. As we do, we will see new life springing forth from death. This is why Jesus spoke of us "following him" (John 2:26) – it's following that involves an embrace of his life and an imitation of his character. Jesus has chosen us to bear fruit (John 15:16).

We need to remember this truth when our hour comes and the Spirit leads us to lay before the cross of our selfishness, pride, fear, and resentment. By accepting the Father's will for us, we will know the resurrected life of Jesus. Our hour will be a time of glorification. Today's gospel is essentially a theological reflection on the cross, Jesus' cross and ours. Let us ask our Lord to help remain faithful and know that all crosse are temporary, while the glory of union with Christ and following his lead is eternal.

Take up your cros



Welcome to the Fifth Sunday of Lent St. Francis! I am having difficulty realizing next week is Palm Sunday!

This Corner, I would like to "talk" about a very special man in the Bible - and his feast day is this coming week. If you're an Italian-American you know it's St. Joseph!

Have you ever heard of St. Joseph's Table? I have, but not to the understanding of the following information! When I was looking for new information on St. Joseph, I came across this and would like to share it with you. The origins of this custom (the St. Joseph's Table) can be

traced to the Middle Ages on the island of Sicily. According to one tradition, during a famine brought on by a severe drought, starving villagers – many of them farmers – prayed to St. Joseph, asking for his intercession. St. Joseph helped them to survive by eating the fava bean. (Sicilians often call fava beans "lucky beans.") It was the only crop that would grow in such harsh conditions. So bountiful the crop became that the famine ended. To offer their thanks, the people prepared a special feast, inviting the poor and less fortunate among them to share in the meal. The feast of St. Joseph's Table has been celebrated ever since!

The festival ritual begins by what is called tupa-tupa, or "knock-knock." A group of poor or orphaned children is usually selected to portray the Holy Family, reliving their journey through the Holy Land for food and shelter. The family approaches the first door and knocks. When asked who is there, they exclaim, "Jesus, Mary, and Joseph! We seek food and shelter." The owner responds, "There is no room for you here." The family proceeds to the second home, where the ritual is repeated, to the same response: "We have no room for you here." Finally, the family approaches the third house where, after they knock, the host replies: "Welcome to this house. The table is set. The food is prepared. Come in and honor us with your presence. (I want to be that third house!)

The Holy Family enters the house and the bountiful feast begins with the cry, "Viva la tavola di San Giuseppe!" ("Long live the table of St. Joseph!"), which is heard throughout the day. All other attendees must wait until the Holy Family has finished their meal before they are allowed to eat. The St. Joseph's table, also known as an "altar," itself is traditionally comprised of three ascending tables, or "steps," representing both the Holy Trinity and the ascent from earth to heaven. At the center of the last and highest table is a statue of St. Joseph or a picture of the Holy Family.

Often the altar is the result of a vow made in the previous year. The altar must never be a source of personal financial gain, and often it is customary for the people to beg for supplies to build it. Palms and lily plants typically adorn each of the tables with candles and green, brown, and dark yellow flowers representing the colors of St. Joseph. Breads are formed and baked into the shapes of various Catholic symbols, such as a St. Joseph's staff, various carpentry tools, a chalice, cross, dove etc. Some of these elaborate breads are not eaten as part of the meal, but later given to the poor. In addition, bottles of wine and assorted fruits are place on the tables. The main course is a pasta dish containing sardines, tomatoes, fresh fennel, and sprinkled with breadcrumbs to represent the sawdust of a carpenter. Because this feast falls during Lent there is no meat. There are various soups and the all-important fava bean, which is often served roasted and lightly salted accompany the pasta. As with all things Sicilian, the meal is followed by a tasty assortment of desserts! The food that remains is given to the poor, along with any money that guests may have contributed. (simplycatholic.com) I don't know about you, but after writing about all this food – I'm hungry!

St. Joseph, a model husband, father, and protector for your families, the Terror of Demons and Protector of the Universal Church, pray for us!

Here is this week's "advice" to help you with your three disciplines of Lent: FAST from worrying today. PRAY for those who are worried and stressed. GIVE (almsgiving) some flowers today to someone who needs encouragement.



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 19th Gospel Reading: John 11:45-56

EVERYONE is welcome to join in this practice of mediation 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 maincourse 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





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 the Gospel today, Jesus says "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me." When we help the poor, we are truly followers of Jesus, servant of the poor.

As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul poor box, know that you are a sign of God's love to those who are suffering, and you give them Easter hope and joy.

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

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 teach-

ers, 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.

6th Lenten Friday Stations of the Cross
March 22nd

Facilitated by St. Vincent De Paul

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



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.









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 for more info or to register.

LOCATION: 1580 St. Thomas Way | Lenoir City, TN 37772 QUESTIONS: regnumchristi.knoxville@gmail.com







WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—3/10/2024

4th Sunday of Lent Attendance: 157

Sunday Offertory Donation Box Holy Days Other Donations* Donations for the Week	20.00 55.00 . <u>50.00</u>
Year-to-Date Donations \$ Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations Year-to-Date Donation Surplus \$	131,063.87
Other Donations Not in Budget Maintenance Fund Parish Charity Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl Total Non-Budget Donations	215.00 . 460.00

- * Mass Intentions, Flowers, Candles, Facility Use, etc.
- ** Based on Year-to-Date Total Donations minus Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations

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, email 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.



COME TO THE TABLE: A RENEWED ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024 9:00 AM - 4:45 PM (Mass at 5:00 PM)

A Retreat Day for Women

All Saints Parish
620 N. Cedar Bluff Rd. - Knoxville

All are welcome! Please register (no fee, but we'd like to know how many to plan for) at KDCCW.ORG.



(A KNOXVILLE DIOCESE CCW EVENT)





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.

PLEASE TURN IN YOUR RICE BOWLS SOMETIME DURING HOLY WEEK



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.

Easter Flowers

This year's Easter Flowers have been donated by several parishioners in memory or honor of someone they know.

In Memory of

Gerri, P.J. & Joe Schlosser
Joseph & Elizabeth Tkatch
Paul & Sharon Dorm
Ted & Violet Jastrab
Loren Courts
Joseph Sendra
Normand & Therese Messier
Raymond Simons
Judy Compton
Ralph & Herma Peychal
Lois Zehnder
Lois & Elmer Szekely

Barbara D. Rizzo

Lawrence & Euthema Davis

Ralph & Irene Meyerkord

John & Theresa Peacock

Tom & Rita Gaudern

Julia Sendra

Ed Murphy

Dorothy Simons

Margaret Jordan

Norman & Lucille Weiland

George Szekely

Frank & Betty Czerniewski
Harlie & Sophia Harloit
Jesse & Gloria Colvin
Lt. Robert L. Poxon
Walter & Sue Fallat
Joyce Troupe
Virginia Ann Welsh
Molly Pickett
Debbie Mannino
Marion Ganley
Edward Szekely

Friends & Relatives and those who gave their lives in service to others

In Honor of

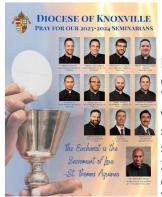
John & Yvonne Peychal Friends & Relatives





PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND

A second collection will be taken up on Good Friday, March 29, in support of the Pontifical Collection for the Holy Land. This collection, in the words of Paul VI is "not only for the Holy Places but above all for those pastoral, charitable, educational, and social works which the Church supports in the Holy Land for the welfare of their Christian brethren and of the local communities." You generosity also assists those such as the Franciscans who have been in the Holy Land since 1209 caring for the poor, protecting the Holy shrines, and keeping the light of Christianity alive.



DIOCESAN COLLECTION FOR SEMINARIAN EDUCATION EASTER SUNDAY MARCH 31, 2024

Please help support Seminarian education. On Easter Sunday, a second collection will be taken up in support of Diocesan Seminarian Education. Though we are one of the smallest dioceses in the U.S., we are blessed with a rich harvest of vocations to the priesthood. Presently, we have 11 seminarians enrolled in studies—3 who will be ordained to the priesthood shortly. And God willing, we will hope to have 11 seminarians for the 2024-25 academic year. But with this wonderful blessing comes a financial challenge. The cost of educating just one seminarian is over \$50,000. Your investment in the future of the priesthood is greatly needed to help

guarantee the growth of the Catholic faith in East Tennessee. Please be generous in supporting our Diocesan Seminarians in their formation as they endeavor through the grace of God to become your future priests.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST



St. Teresa of Kolkata (Mother Teresa) (1910-1997)

"When you look at the crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you **THEN**. When you look at the Sacred Host, you understand now much Jesus loves you **NOW**."



Save the Date!

Wednesday May 15, 2024 5:30 PM

Dinner and Desserts

Vocation Stories

Adoration

All Are Welcome!

St. Alphonsus Catholic Church - Crossville TN

For more information please contact Beth Parsons, Diocese of Knoxville Vocations Office Manager & 865-584-3307 & bparsons@dioknox.opg & dioknox.org/vocations