



MARCH 24, 2024 PALM SUNDAY

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	3/25	8:30 AM	
Tue	3/26	8:30 AM	Brian Barker †
Wed	3/27		NO MASS
Thu	3/28	8:30 AM	NO MASS
Fri	3/29	8:30 AM	NO MASS
Sat	3/30	8:04 PM	
Sun	3/31	9:00 AM	

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, Deb Koehler, Laken DuRussel, Layla Sexton, Lori O'Toole, Mark Bolte

SANCTUARY CANDLE The sanctuary candle is in memory of deceased members of the Arnold Korth Family given by the family. 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.

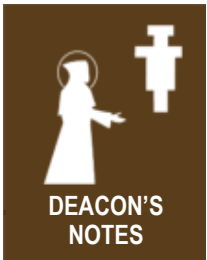


PRAYERS
ANSWERED

"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

Mon	3/25	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	3/26		
Wed	3/27		
Thu	3/28	7:00 PM	Holy Thursday Mass
Fri	3/29	3:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
		7:00 PM	Good Friday Service
Sat	3/30	8:04 PM	Easter Vigil Mass
Sun	3/31	9:00 AM	Easter Sunday Mass



The joke is that whenever the church gives away free stuff, we draw large crowds at those particular Masses. So, on Ash Wednesday, we have a big crowd for Mass. And today, Palm Sunday usually draws a big crowd as well.

People love palms. People put the palms we take home today behind the crucifix or holy picture in their home for the year or weave them into smaller crosses to wear during this day. They remind us of what happened on Palm Sunday.

Palms were leaves of triumph, much like flags people wave today when a head of state visits. They didn't have flags in those days, but people waved palms to honor Jesus as he came toward Jerusalem after raising Lazarus. We all know those same people would turn on Him a few days later in His Passion. So, the palms remind us of three truths:

First, they remind us of human unfaithfulness, how quickly today's hero can be tomorrow's villain or today's idol can be next year's forgotten person. Today's acclaim can become next month's ridicule. If we live our lives dependent on human acclaim and popular opinion, we are building on the wind. The palms remind us of that.

Secondly, the palms place us within the Passion account. The characters of the Passion are not creatures from outer space. They are us. Through our reading of the Passion, we can identify with Peter's denial, with Judas' betrayal, with the disciples' flight, with Pilate's cowardice, with the leaders' cynicism or with the crowd's mindless frenzy. We all have a place in the Passion story. The palms remind us of that as well.

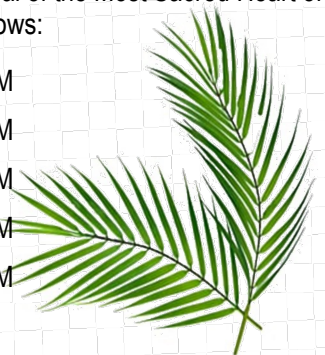
Thirdly, the palms remind us of Christ's love. Despite what all these people did to Him, Jesus died for all of them. His love, His truth, His forgiveness, His grace are the foundations on which we can rely. Despite our failures, in Him we can have a new and strong life. The palms remind us of that as well.

Take the palms home today and keep them. They remind us of our human tendency to blow both hot and cold both then and now, of our own sins and failures and of Christ's redeeming and victorious love which alone can make us whole and strong.

As we begin Holy Week, I hope you will all avail yourselves to the different liturgies that will take place this week. We may not be giving away any free stuff, but the days of Holy Thursday and Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil, are just as important, even more so, than Ash Wednesday or Palm Sunday.

The Chrism Mass will take place on Monday March 25, 2024, at the Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in Knoxville. Services at St. Francis of Assisi in Townsend are as follows:

Holy Thursday	March 28 th	Mass of the Lord's Supper	7:00 PM
Good Friday	March 29 th	Stations of the Cross	3:00 PM
Good Friday	March 29 th	Good Friday Service	7:00 PM
Holy Saturday	March 30 th	Easter Vigil Service	8:04 PM
Easter Sunday	March 31 st	Easter Sunday Service	9:00 AM



We hope to see you all there. Have a blessed Holy Week!

CATECHISM

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Here we are at Palm Sunday! The Church celebrates this Paschal mystery – the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ – annually during Holy Week. This most holy week begins with Palm (or Passion) Sunday.

During this coming Holy Week, we will celebrate in our Church calendar year what is called the Triduum (**Trid** • yoo • uhm). And what exactly is the Triduum? The word Triduum has Latin roots, meaning "**the three days**." The Triduum is a season separating the

Lenten and Resurrection seasons and spans three days - the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and concludes after the evening prayer on Easter Sunday. Sometimes, people use the word in other contexts, but most of the time it refers to the Paschal (Easter) Triduum. The Triduum is the highest point of the entire liturgical year!

Last year I talked briefly about each day of the Triduum, but this year I would like to reflect on the three disciplines that we all tried to concentrate on during the Lenten Season – I know, I tried, but it is difficult! I've "talked" about the three pillars/disciplines of Lent: almsgiving, prayer and fasting. So, how did you do?

With **almsgiving**, I hope we reflected on making the needs of others our own, especially the needy of our world or the sick and the suffering right here in our parish and town through the St. Vincent dePaul Society, or our families and friends in need, or how about that next-door neighbor(s) in need? Did you take a "Rice Bowl" home with you and contribute?

Reflecting on **prayer**, this Lenten time offered us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. Did you attend the Stations of the Cross on the Fridays of Lent and attend the simple suppers? Did you take one or all of the material(s) offered to help you reflect on your prayer life? Did you attend Lectio Divino? Did you attend the new Adult Catechesis?

And your **fasting**..... did you smile and go about your day happy? Did you think about what you chose to "give up"? Do you think God needs the chocolate, candy, and other trivial things that we fast from? No, He needs us to look deep within ourselves and reflect. He wants our hearts. I believe He wants us to stop our obsession with the ME and start thinking about what truly matters in life – our relationship with Him – a deeper and a closer relationship/communion with Him!

And now, that 4th (fourth) discipline Father has talked about in the past. I call it the CPR of our lives. C – confession; P – penance; and R – reconciliation. We are so blessed that Father receives penitents before the weekend Masses or any time by appointment – all you need to do is call the office, He (Christ) is waiting!

Lent is a journey, and with the Church's advice/help of almsgiving, prayer, fasting and the "CPR" of our spiritual life, I hope that we find ourselves somewhere different than where we started. I hope that your Lenten journey gave you some time of quiet and prayer, a time of penance and meditation, a time to become aware of our strengths and weaknesses and we can say, now, that we have the "attitude of gratitude." (Quoted from a very good friend of our family – Father Guy Fenger- God rest his soul.) So, instead of priding ourselves on how "well" we observed the Lenten practices – we are invited to focus our gaze on keeping the suffering of Christ ever before our eyes in the person of the poor, the sick, the imprisoned and the dying.

Have a most beautiful Triduum filled with many blessings!

St. Francis of Assisi 2024 Easter Triduum Services
March 28, 29, and 30
One liturgy celebrated over the period of 3 days



The Easter Triduum (pronounced **Tríd • yoo • uhm**) services at St. Francis of Assisi Church are three of the most moving, reverent, and spiritually rewarding services in the entire Liturgical Year. If you have never attended an Easter Triduum service here at St. Francis, you owe it to yourself and your family to attend the Triduum services. Come be a part of your St. Francis parish family this Holy Week and share in the Easter Triduum experience on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil—one liturgy celebrated over the period of 3 days.

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH AT 7:00 PM: The Mass of the Lord's Supper begins at 7:00 PM by gathering in reverent silence. This very special Mass includes a foot washing service wherein we are reminded of Jesus bending down to wash the feet of his disciples. At the end of communion the Eucharist is transferred, in procession, to Shea Hall where it will be available for adoration until **10:00 PM**. Please come and worship as a parish family during this time of adoration.

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH AT 3:00 AND 7:00 PM: We gather again on Good Friday in reverent silence at 3:00 PM for Stations of the Cross and then again at 7:00 PM to begin our Good Friday service with the Liturgy of the Word—an interactive Passion reading. The Passion reading is followed by Veneration of the Cross where we are all given the opportunity to approach the cross of Christ and offer our Lenten prayers and petitions. Our Good Friday service concludes with a communion service. After communion, reverent silence will be maintained in the church for at least 30 minutes, after which time the church will be made ready for the Easter Vigil.

EASTER VIGIL, MARCH 30TH AT 8:04 PM: The Easter Vigil service begins at approximately 8:04 PM outside on the lawn (weather permitting) behind the Parish Resource Center with the Service of Light from the new Easter fire. At the conclusion of the Service of Light, we process into the church where we continue our celebration with the renewal of our baptismal promise, the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

The Easter Triduum:
The three-day celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today is Palm Sunday and the beginning of the holiest of Christian weeks. Let us pray for the grace to take up our own cross and to follow Jesus through death to new life.

During Lent, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring the mercy of Jesus into the hearts of the poor, by assisting many families, providing them with food and monetary assistance for utility and rent bills.

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 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.



**GENEVIEVE KINEKE
RENOWNED SPEAKER
AND AUTHOR**

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)



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST



“The first announcement of the Eucharist divided the disciples, just as the announcement of the Passion scandalized them: ‘This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?’

The Eucharist and the Cross are stumbling blocks. It is the same mystery and it never ceases to be an occasion of division. ‘Will you go away?’: the Lord’s question echoes through the ages, as a loving invitation to discover that only he has ‘the words of eternal life’ and that to receive in faith the gift of his Eucharist is to receive the Lord himself.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1336

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—3/17/2024

5th Sunday of Lent Attendance: 157

Sunday Offertory	\$1,810.00
Donation Box.....	00.00
Holy Days.....	00.00
Other Donations*.....	<u>30.00</u>
Donations for the Week.....	\$1,840.00

Year-to-Date Donations	\$135,246.73
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations	<u>134,599.88</u>
Year-to-Date Donation Surplus	\$646.85

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$25.00
Parish Charity.....	300.00
Second Collection	<u>300.00</u>
Total Non-Budget Donations	\$625.00

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

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

**Marriage Retreat
Saturday, June 15th
St. Thomas in Lenoir City**

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.
- \$86.00 per couple. Registration deadline is June 9th.
- 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.*

Visit tinyurl.com/KnoxMarriageRetreat for more info or to register. Questions: regnumchristi.knoxville@gmail.com

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.***

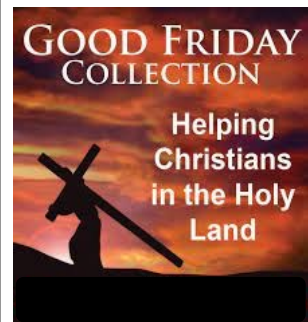
The second will be a blend of preaching, prayer, and crafts on the Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit: ***Kindle in Me the Fire of Your Love; April 19-20.***

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.

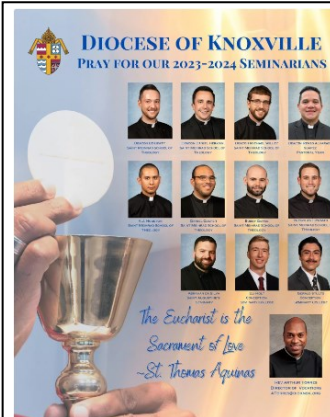


Please stop by the St. Clare Gift Shop after Mass to see all of the new items for sale. We have many items that will make perfect Easter, First Communion, Mother's Day and special occasion gifts just waiting to be purchased! If you would like to visit the shop during the week, it can be opened any weekday after morning Mass or by appointment by calling the office.



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." Your 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.



SAVE THE DATE !!!!
FRIDAY, JULY 26TH - 6:00 PM

Tennessee Smokies Baseball Game (with fireworks)
at the Tennessee Smokies Stadium
(Yee-Haw at the Yard Group Section)

\$35 for adults, \$33 for children (12 and under)

More information to follow in May.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
SPECIAL HOLY HOUR
OF ADORATION

Sunday, April 7, 2024 at 3 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation (2:00-2:55)

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Scripture Readings

Praying the Rosary (with special text)

Praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Communion Service

Benediction

Jesus, I Trust in You

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 Psychal

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 Psychal

Friends & Relatives

