



## MARCH 3, 2024 THIRD 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>3/4</b>	8:30 AM	Dan Qualkenbush †
<b>Tue</b>	<b>3/5</b>	8:30 AM	Charlie Graham
<b>Wed</b>	<b>3/6</b>		<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Thu</b>	<b>3/7</b>	8:30 AM	Brian Barker †
<b>Fri</b>	<b>3/8</b>	8:30 AM	Donald Sumner †
<b>Sat</b>	<b>3/9</b>	4:00 PM	George & Suzi † Otterman
<b>Sun</b>	<b>3/10</b>	9:00 AM	Theresa Rinaldi †

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, Kathy Luck, Peggy Groves

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** The sanctuary candle lit March 2 thru March 8 is in **Memory of Dan 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**



**Psalm 73:28**

*“To be near God is my happiness to place my hope in God the Lord.”*

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>3/4</b>	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
<b>Tue</b>	<b>3/5</b>	9:15 AM	Lectio Divina
<b>Wed</b>	<b>3/6</b>	1:00 PM	Gus Lloyd Apologetics Series
		5:00 PM	SVDP
<b>Thu</b>	<b>3/7</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>3/8</b>	5:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
<b>Sat</b>	<b>3/9</b>	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>3/10</b>	9:00 AM	Mass



### THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

We all have the tendency to be distracted. When I was attending Business School during the 70's, I was informed that the average American was exposed to between 500 and 1,600 ads a day. In 2023 that number jumped to between 6,000 and 10,000 ads per day, all trying to catch our eye and interest. We lose track of our original intent and go down a wormhole of images and information bombarding us with messages that our lives will be happier and more fulfilled with whatever is being advertised.

But it is not only advertisers and influencers who are aware of our tendency to get sidetracked or lose attention. God is also keenly aware and calls us back time and again to what truly matters. In fact, one of God's primary actions throughout Scriptures is to call us back from distraction.

When we read the passage of Jesus cleansing the temple, we can be distracted by what seems to be a fiery anger released against those who were using the temple for their own purposes. In fact, Jesus was performing a prophetic gesture. Scripture reminds us that we are "the temple of the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 6:19) and that we should "cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit" (2 Corinthians 7:1) In his death and resurrection, Jesus opened the way for our cleansing, and it is Jesus himself who personally accomplishes this in our lives – as we allow him into our hearts.

Our Lent began with God speaking through the prophet Joel: "Return to Me with your whole heart" (Joel 2:1200). God knows that our distractions are linked to our deepest longing for a connection to what is meaningful and holy. Our desire is ultimately for God, but so much in our world tries to substitute the real thing. When we mistake our distractions for true holiness, we begin to believe that the distraction will fulfill us. Some distractions are more dangerous and addictive than others, but all have the ability to become the center of our lives if we allow them.

In today's first reading, Moses gives the Ten Commandments to the Israelites. The Commandments offer a way of life rooted in fidelity to God. This singular focus leads to right relationship with all others, without distortion and distraction. Yet even as Moses is receiving this Law from God, the Israelites are worshiping a golden calf at the base of the holy mountain. Their impatience leads them to stray, but God does not give up. He calls them back again. God knows our impatience, our fixations, and our longing. In the midst of a world competing for our attention, God calls us back.

In today's gospel, Jesus overturns the tables of the money changers. Changing money into temple coin and buying animals for sacrifice was a normal practice that was overseen and encouraged by the religious authorities and understood as an enshrined practice aligned with the worship of God. Jesus has to take extreme action to disrupt this engrained distraction. People are so fixated on turning a profit and following the prescriptions that that they cannot see that all of it is a distraction from what they say they are about: the true worship of God.

On our Lenten Journey, God invites us to recognize our distractions and our holy longing. What enshrined practices in our own lives might be distracting us from what truly matters? What are the tables in our lives that we might think are essential but really need to be overturned? How does God disrupt us every day from the distractions that vie for our attention? God implores us to return to the source of our longing and not settle for any imitation.

## CATECHISM

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In this Sunday's corner we will be "talking" about the "Beatitude of Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God". People who are peacemakers bring peace and reconciliation to everyone, everywhere.

Perhaps it is easier to identify "not peace" than to nail down the meaning of "peace." War is not peace; anxiety is not peace; holding grudges is not peace. The list could go on and on. We feel it in our guts when we are not at peace, not at one with the world around us and within us, and not at one with our God. There is a sense of fear or "dis-ease" or even loss. Still, we have not identified peace.

In Hebrew, the original language of most of the Old Testament, the word translated as peace is "shalom" which is complete harmony with people, nature and God. Along with justice and truth, shalom is to be a hallmark of God's people. In these virtues, we find a reflection of the very nature of God. Shalom is well-being, tranquility, at-oneness, or wholeness.

Peacemakers are people who bring peace and reconciliation into the lives of others. They treat others fairly. These are people who face head-on the difficulties of building relationships between human beings that are based on God's values, the values God has placed within every human heart. Blessed are the peacemakers—who not only study peace but spread it. When I think of the modern-day peacemakers, I think of my husband Michael's profession. Normally Law Enforcement is called not because of a "joyful" event but for some type of "chaos" in people's lives. They try to decelerate the situation by either their communication skills because words are very powerful or an "alternate way" to solve the problem.

The prophet Isaiah (9:5-6) spoke of a time when the "Prince of Peace" would rule over a vast and forever peaceful domain. As Christians we believe the Prince of Peace was born in a manger, walked the roads and trails of Israel inviting listeners into this peaceable and just kingdom, then was put to death and rose from death to seal this promise. After Jesus' resurrection, He stood in the midst of the disciples and He offered the worshipping community an offering of peace....this extension of peace is important. Peacemakers are not only in the sense of those who heal dissension. Peace is used in a deeper sense, "the peace of God," please refer to Philippians 4:7; "the peace of Christ," please read Colossians 3:15 and Luke 24:35-48.

"Respect for and development of human life require peace. Peace is not merely the absence of war, and it is not limited to maintaining a balance of powers between adversaries. Peace cannot be attained on earth without safeguarding the goods of person, free communication among men, respect for the dignity of persons and peoples, and the assiduous practice of fraternity. Peace is the "the tranquility of order." Peace is the work of justice and the effect of charity. (CCC, 2304, quoting Augustine, City of God, 19, 13, 1: PL 41, 640; see Isaiah 32:17; see Gaudium et Spes, 78)

Here is this week's "advice" to help you with your three disciplines of Lent: **FAST** from checking your work and personal email today. (If you have to, only do it once). **PRAY** that God will help you find peace in a stressful situation. **GIVE** (almsgiving) your free time today to a friend or family member who needs help with something.

Have a most peaceful week St. Francis.



### 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 5th Gospel Reading: Luke 11:14-23**

**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 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 6TH**

**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](mailto:jdewtn2018@att.net)

**GUS LLOYD**  
CATHOLIC *Apologetics*



### YOUR KARM DONATIONS BENEFIT THE SVDP FOOD PANTRY



Did you know that your donations to KARM can benefit our food pantry “Neighbors in Need”? With “Spring Cleaning” just around the corner, you can take all the items you are cleaning out of your closets and donate them at any of the KARM Locations. Tell them that these donations are to benefit St. Francis of Assisi—Townsend. SVDP then receives gift cards from KARM which we give to our neighbors for purchasing clothing and other items. We have been getting \$100 to \$150 in gift cards each quarter so your donations greatly help. Thank you for helping us by doing this.



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel Jesus is asked "What sign can you show us?" Every day we can see signs of how God has visited us in the blessings of our lives. Let us be a sign of God's love by being a blessing to others.

**Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can be a sign of God's love to the suffering and poor.**

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.

3rd Lenten Friday Stations of the Cross

March 8th

Facilitated by **Altar Servers & Sacristans**

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)

## 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—2/25/2024

2nd Sunday in Lent Attendance: 128

Sunday Offertory .....	\$ 2,187.00
Ash Wednesday Offertory .....	20.00
Donation Box.....	0.00
Other Donations* .....	400.00
Donations for the Week.....	\$ 2,607.00

Year-to-Date Donations .....	\$ 123,984.73
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations .....	123,991.85
Year-to-Date Donation <b>Deficit</b> .....	<b>\$ 7.12</b>

### Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund .....	\$ 0.00
Parish Charity.....	0.00
Church in Central & Eastern Europe .....	20.00
Black & Indian Missions .....	20.00
Total Non-Budget Donations .....	\$ 40.00

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

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

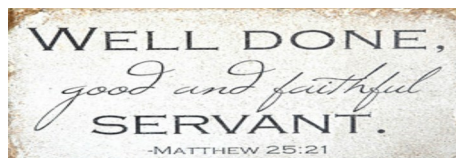
# Funeral Service for Cam King



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

The Funeral Service will be held at 10:00 am on Saturday, March 3rd here at St. Francis of Assisi. Committal of her ashes in the St. Francis Columbarium will occur immediately following the Funeral Service. All are invited.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to One Heart Colombia, c/o Connie Reed, PO Box 106, Englewood, TN 37329.



# 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.

