



## MARCH 31, 2024 EASTER 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

<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.)

**NO MORNING MASS MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY THIS WEEK  
COMMUNION SERVICES OFFERED DAILY AT 8:30 AM**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>4/1</b>	8:30 AM	
<b>Tue</b>	<b>4/2</b>	8:30 AM	Dan Qualkenbush†
<b>Wed</b>	<b>4/3</b>		<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Thu</b>	<b>4/4</b>	8:30 AM	
<b>Fri</b>	<b>4/5</b>	8:30 AM	
<b>Sat</b>	<b>4/6</b>	8:04 PM	Raymond Nieman† Bernard Eberhardt† Emmett Eberhardt
<b>Sun</b>	<b>4/7</b>	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 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, Deb Koehler, Laken DuRussel, Layla Sexton, Lori O'Toole, Mark Bolte, Johnny Mallory

**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:** 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. Augustine of Hippo*  
(354-430)

*“Recognize in this bread  
what hung on the cross  
and in this chalice  
what flowed  
from His side.”*

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>4/1</b>	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
<b>Tue</b>	<b>4/2</b>		
<b>Wed</b>	<b>4/3</b>	5:00 PM	SVdP
<b>Thu</b>	<b>4/4</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>4/5</b>	9:00 AM	First Friday Adoration
<b>Sat</b>	<b>4/6</b>	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>4/7</b>	9:00 AM	Mass
		2:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation offered
		3:00 PM	Divine Mercy Holy Hour



**Easter Monday - 4/1/24**



## ***Happy Easter! He is risen! Alleluia, Alleluia!***

Next week, the Second Sunday of Easter, is Divine Mercy Sunday. We will celebrate Divine Mercy Hour at 3 PM on Sunday April 7, 2024, at St. Francis of Assisi, Townsend. On April 30, 2000 when Pope Saint John Paul II canonized Sr. Faustina he designated the first Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. We will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, with veneration of the image of Divine Mercy. So, go to your regular weekend Mass then join us at 3PM. All are welcome. Below is an explanation of this great Feast.

Jesus told St. Faustina that this Feast of Mercy would be a very special day when "all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened". (Diary 699) Our Lord made a great promise to all those souls who would go to Confession and then receive Him in Holy Communion on the Feast of Mercy, on the Sunday after Easter, which is now called Divine Mercy Sunday throughout the Catholic Church.

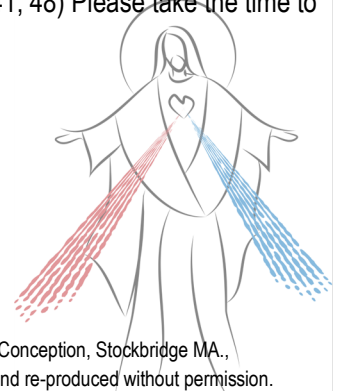
Jesus promised that "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." (Diary 699) He went on to say "I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My Mercy." (Diary 1109)

Fr. Antonio will hear confessions from 2-3PM. We will begin the Holy Hour at 3PM with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. During this hour there will be time for prayer and adoration, immediately followed by a short communion service. (You may receive communion again if you went to Mass earlier in the day.) We want to encourage everyone to take advantage of this incredible promise and the additional Plenary Indulgence on this great Feast of Mercy "Divine Mercy Sunday." We want you to benefit fully from these promises, and we also want you to notify all of your family and friends about them too and urge them to return to the practice of their faith!

The Image of The Divine Mercy, which Our Lord requested to be solemnly blessed and venerated on this day, will be on display in our church. Pope John Paul II said that the image portrays the Risen Jesus Christ bringing Mercy to the whole world. Our Lord said "I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish". (Diary 341, 48) Please take the time to visit with this Image of The Divine Mercy and venerate Jesus.

Again, please join us at 3 PM at St. Francis of Assisi on Sunday April 7 (Confession from 2-3PM)!

## **Jesus, I Trust in You!**



Excerpts taken from the Diary of St. Faustina, copyright 1987 Marians of the Immaculate Conception, Stockbridge MA., USA Bulletin insert taken from the [www.DivineMercySunday.com](http://www.DivineMercySunday.com) website and may be copied and re-produced without permission.

## CATECHISM

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Jesus Christ is RISEN! Happy Easter! During my time as a Religion Educator, I had students ask the question: “Did the Easter celebration begin as a pagan holiday?” Of course, the answer is a resounding NO, because whatever that time of year meant for ancient pagans, for Christians, Easter is the celebration of Christ’s Resurrection. The fact that when it was first celebrated, the feast of the Resurrection coincided with pagan celebrations doesn’t mean it was derived from them. The Jewish Passover (on which Christ was crucified) also coincided with such celebrations, yet this didn’t mean it was pagan.

So, with this the questions would continue.....how about those Easter eggs? The students would ask about colored eggs being used in rituals associated with a pagan god. There are some claims that the original Easter eggs are Pagan symbols from Europe, but there's little evidence to support this. Instead, it seems to be a more middle eastern tradition. Early Christians looked at the connection eggs had to life and decided eggs could be a part of their celebration of Christ’s resurrection. In addition, in some areas, eggs were forbidden during Lent; therefore, they were a delicacy at Easter. So, there’s nothing wrong with painting or hunting them on Easter—provided the **real** meaning of the day isn’t lost. Any peculiarly pagan significance attached to Easter eggs was forgotten centuries ago.

Another question that ALWAYS made me laugh was “Why is the ‘Bunny Rabbit’ associated with Easter?” There are several reasons for the rabbit, or hare, to be associated with Easter, all of which come through pagan celebrations or beliefs. The most obvious is the hare’s fertility. Easter comes during spring and celebrates new life. The Christian meaning of new life through Christ and a general emphasis on new life are different, but the two gradually merged. Any animals – like the hare – that produced many offspring were easy to include. The hare is also an ancient symbol of the moon. The date of Easter depends on the moon. This may have helped the hare to be absorbed into Easter celebrations.

The hare or rabbit’s burrow helped the animal’s adoption as part of Easter celebrations. Believers saw the rabbit coming out of its underground home as a symbol of Jesus coming out of the tomb. Perhaps this was another case of taking a pre-existing symbol and giving it a Christian meaning.

The Easter hare came to America with German immigrants, and the hare’s role passed to the common American rabbit. Originally children made nests for the rabbit in hats, bonnets, or fancy paper boxes, rather than the baskets of today. Once the children finished their nests, they put them in a secluded spot to keep from frightening the shy rabbit. The appealing nests full of colored eggs probably helped the customs to spread.

Of all Easter symbols, the lamb is probably the most strongly Christian. Other than the fact that lambs are young animals born in springtime, it has no strong ties to pagan traditions. The lamb comes from the Jewish Passover, where each family killed a lamb as a sacrifice. When Christ became the Passover Lamb for everyone, the lamb became a symbol for His sacrifice.

Christians celebrate Easter because it commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. This pivotal event stands as the bedrock of Christian belief, embodying the promise of redemption, eternal life, and the triumph of light over darkness. For believers, Easter represents the culmination of God’s divine plan for humanity, offering profound hope, forgiveness, and the assurance of salvation through Christ’s sacrificial death and glorious resurrection. It serves as a sacred opportunity for spiritual renewal, collective worship, and joyful celebration, inspiring hearts with the enduring message of God’s boundless love and grace.

Here’s a little tidbit for you: Mother Mary Angelica, died March 27, 2016 - Easter Sunday. Through Mother Mary Angelica’s passionate pursuance of spreading Christ’s Truth, the Eternal World Television Network (EWTN) grew from that Birmingham garage into a global network. The EWTN has become a 24-hour TV, radio and online network that broadcasts to 264 million households worldwide! WOW!

May God bless you on this resurrection Sunday and always St. Francis!



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today as we celebrate the feast of Easter we find the challenge of also seeing and believing the resurrection that comes through our own lives of self-sacrifice which brings new life to others.

**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 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 APRIL "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"



PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS



**SAVE THE DATE !!!!**

**FRIDAY, JULY 26<sup>TH</sup> - 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.**



**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](http://KDCCW.ORG).

(A KNOXVILLE DIOCESE CCW EVENT)





## 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.

## WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—3/24/2024

Palm Sunday Attendance: 206

Sunday Offertory .....	\$2,461.00
Donation Box.....	14.00
Holy Days.....	00.00
Other Donations*.....	10.00
Donations for the Week.....	\$2,485.00

Year-to-Date Donations .....	\$137,731.73
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations .....	138,135.89
Year-to-Date Donation <b>Deficit</b> .....	<b>\$404.16</b>

### Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund .....	\$00.00
Parish Charity.....	25.00
Second Collection .....	00.00
Rice Bowls.....	100.00
Total Non-Budget Donations .....	\$125.00

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

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

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

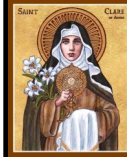
**WEDNESDAYS AT 1:00 PM**

**PARISH RESOURCE CENTER**

Come and join 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*



## ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

Open after weekend Masses and by request/appointment after daily Mass

Our gift shop has many items that will make perfect First Communion, Mother's Day and special occasion gifts just waiting to be purchased!

Daily  
CATHOLIC  
WISDOM



Saint Joseph did not do extraordinary things, but rather by the constant practice of the ordinary and common virtues, he attained that sanctity which elevates him above all other saints.

- St. Joseph Marelllo

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY  
SPECIAL HOLY HOUR  
OF ADORATION

Sunday, April 7, 2024 at 3 PM

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Scripture Readings

Praying the Rosary (with special text)

Praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Benediction

Jesus, I Trust in You

