



**APRIL 21, 2024**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**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](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>4/22</b>	8:30 AM	Kathy & Dan Meyerkord
<b>Tue</b>	<b>4/23</b>	8:30 AM	Charlie Graham
<b>Wed</b>	<b>4/24</b>		<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Thu</b>	<b>4/25</b>	8:30 AM	Lucas Simons †
<b>Fri</b>	<b>4/26</b>	8:30 AM	Jeanne Vilardo †
<b>Sat</b>	<b>4/27</b>	4:00 PM	Rebecca Clearman †
<b>Sun</b>	<b>4/28</b>	9:00 AM	Barbara D. Rizzo †

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, 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, Marcus Bolte, Johnny Mallory, Louann Felske

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** The Sanctuary Candle is lit *in memory of Cam King given by the Ladies of CCW*. 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:** The sanctuary flowers are *in memory of Lucas and Mary Simons given by Eric and Gail Simons*. If you would like to donate to the sanctuary flowers fund 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. Maximilian Kolbe  
1894-1941***

*“If angels  
could be jealous of men,  
they would be so  
for one reason:  
Holy Communion.”*

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>4/22</b>	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
<b>Tue</b>	<b>4/23</b>		
<b>Wed</b>	<b>4/24</b>	1:00 PM	Gus Lloyd Apologetics
<b>Thu</b>	<b>4/25</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>4/26</b>		
<b>Sat</b>	<b>4/27</b>	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>4/28</b>	9:00 AM	Mass

## JESUS, OUR GOOD SHEPHERD



Here we are already at the fourth Sunday of Easter, known commonly as “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Every year at the midpoint of the Easter season, the church returns to its familiar image of Christ as a shepherd tending his flock. It is an image that has remained strong over the years - even though shepherds carrying or herding sheep is no longer an everyday sight for most of us.

Some of the earliest images of Jesus – found in the catacombs of Rome – are of our Savior carrying a lamb around his shoulders with a couple of sheep by his side. The image is a comforting one as we reflect on how Jesus, our Good Shepherd, always goes in search of lost sheep.

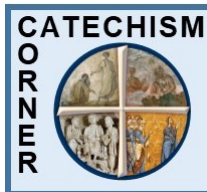
This image is strong even for young children. They deeply desire the protective love that is evident in the image of Christ as a shepherd. For those blessed with loving fathers, this image of Christ blossoms out of those most natural relationships of loving protection and provision. For those children whose parental relationships are absent or broken, Christ the Good Shepherd can become a replacement figure, offering peace and protection on a supernatural level.

The image of the good shepherd is one of the most comforting images in the Scriptures. The best remembered and loved psalm of all the 150 psalms is Psalm 23: “The Lord is my Shepherd.” It symbolizes God’s protection and care and guidance. When we put our eyes on Jesus, he leads us to still, calm waters. He leads us to green pastures. And Jesus leads us away from danger – even when we are in the “valley of the shadow of death” (Ps 23:4). With Jesus at our side, we really have nothing and no one to fear. But it is a two-way avenue. If he is to be our shepherd and protector, he expects that we will follow him. We will hear his voice.

Does it mean nothing bad will ever happen if we follow Christ? If it were true that if we do everything God wants, God would do everything we want, churches would be packed every week. Yes, there are rewards in this life when we keep faithful to him, but we know bad things also happen to good people. Even many of his followers suffered, some were even tortured and put to death as Jesus was. Jesus came to the world not just to protect us, but to give us life abundantly. We may ask why Jesus doesn’t keep bad things from happening to those who are faithful to him. One answer could be that life in this world is not where the abundant life really is. Even if we have looks, popularity, health, wealth, youth, wisdom, and everything else our hearts desire, we don’t “have it all.” We’ll always feel some emptiness in our hearts, we’ll never be totally satisfied, because our hearts were made for perfect union with God, and we won’t know what that would be like until we get to heaven. And that’s what Jesus came to lead us to.

Our Savior offered up his very life to save us from our sins; He is the sacrificial lamb of God. During this Easter season, let us continue to reflect on what this means for us individually. And let us remember that, through Jesus’ death and resurrection, we have hope for new life in him. We were lost and now we are found. We must die to ourselves - and all that is sinful in us - in order to have new life in Jesus. As Christians we are an Easter people. Let us joyfully lean into this truth, live out loud, and carry this message through our words and the way we live our lives.





Happy Sunday St. Francis of Assisi. I pray this finds you on the corner of happy and healthy! This profession began with the words we believe, or in Latin, *credimus*, from which we derive our English word *creed*. Thus, this statement from Nicaea is today called the Nicene Creed.

Please note, “I believe” is the correct translation of the Latin, *credo*, and thus replaced the “We believe.” This reminds us that this is how we respond, as individuals, to the questions of our faith, even when we make this response in unison with others.

**I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.** I believe in one God: In the midst of a culture that worshiped many gods (water, love, war, etc.) Yahweh revealed Himself to Abraham and Moses as the one, true God. So, the creed starts by saying there is one God.

**God is our Father.** Father is the name that Jesus Himself used and gave to us for God. While the use of the word Father to refer to God may seem commonplace to the Christians of today, it was a unique concept in the early years of the Church. No other religion dares to bring God to such an intimate relationship to man and woman that we may consider ourselves as His children. The Old Testament people did not even call out God’s name. We should not fail to grasp the significance, and uniqueness of this relationship that we, as Christians, profess to have with God. We call God our Father, not only because Jesus spoke of Him as our Father in the Scriptures, but because God is like a father. He gives us life and existence. Not only does He give us life, but He also cares for us, His children, by providing us with the material and spiritual gifts we need to grow. So, by calling God our Father, we show that our God is not an impersonal God who just set us in motion, but rather a God who cares for us more than we can possibly imagine.

**God is almighty.** This means that His creative power is unlimited. Whenever we humans create something, we must always have some material to work with. This is not true with God. God’s creative power is independent of all pre-existing matter. He produced things out of nothing. We hear about creation in the first book of the Bible, the Book of Genesis. This is not intended to be a scientific explanation of how the universe came into existence. It is, however, intended to teach the profound truth that God is the Author of creation. This vast, complex universe cannot be scientifically explained without such a supreme and divine being.

**God is the maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.** This teaching confirms that God created everything that came into being, all things seen and unseen, and it was thus good. This ended a debate among some theologians who claimed that everything in the material world was evil and to be despised. They believed that a division existed between the spirit and the flesh, soul, and the body. God created both good and holy.

The bulk of this information was taken from: Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church <https://stspchurch.com/>.

As you can see, I’m only touching the surface of what our Church Fathers taught and the heresies the two Councils were addressing! Have a most blessed week!

*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



**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—4/14/2024  
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Attendance: 169**

Sunday Offertory .....	\$2,197.00
Donation Box.....	0.00
Holy Days .....	20.00
Other Donations* .....	458.00
Donations for the Week.....	\$2,655.00

Year-to-Date Donations .....	\$148,747.73
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations .....	148,743.92
Year-to-Date Donation <b>Surplus</b> .....	<b>\$81</b>

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund .....	\$65.00
Parish Charity.....	195.00
Second Collection .....	0.00
Total Non-Budget Donations .....	\$260.00

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

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

**CCW AND CCETN BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER**

**4/20/24 - 5/26/24**



Please consider participating in our Baby Bottle Fundraiser! The proceeds will be used to help young families in our community. Baby Bottles will be available on April 20th and can be returned on or before May 26th.

For more information please contact:

pregnancyhelp@ccetn.org

www.ccetn.org

877-990-4673



**SUNDAY MORNINGS  
COFFEE, DONUTS, AND FELLOWSHIP**

Each Sunday after the 9:00 AM Mass, we like to invite the congregation into Shea Hall for Coffee, Donuts, and Fellowship. We need the help of our parishioners to supply the donuts/pastries each week. If you are enjoying this ministry and would be able to help out supplying pastries, please sign up on the clipboard hanging near the bulletin board in Shea Hall. We need your help to keep this ministry active! Please contact Donna Czerniewski (847-668-4074) with questions or for more information.



**SECOND COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL**

**APRIL 27-28, 2024**



Please be generous in supporting this collection. This collection helps to strengthen the Catholic Church in the United States in its 87 mission territories. As the Diocese of Knoxville is one of the smallest dioceses in the nation, it is a direct beneficiary of Catholic Home Missions assistance. Your generosity in support of this appeal is greatly appreciated for the additional blessings it brings to our diocese. Thank you!





## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today, we celebrate “Good Shepherd Sunday” when we reflect on Jesus’ care and love of us. This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought the love and care of Jesus to the poor by assisting families, providing food and assistance in 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 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”



**PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY**

“Whenever you are filled with worry, desperate for hope, looking for clarity, or just need a moment of peace, go to a quiet place and visit Jesus in the Eucharist. Just talk to Him like He’s sitting on the altar. He’ll give you exactly what you need.”

**JENNA GREIWE**  
*Beautiful Eucharist*

 **DynamicCatholic.com**



### 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!

#### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY  
MAY, 2024



7717 RIVER ROAD TOWNSEND, TN 37882  
EMAIL: STFRANCISTOWNSEND7717@GMAIL.COM  
WEBSITE: STFRANCISTOWNSEND.ORG  
(865) 448-6070

### 2024 PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Our 2024 Pictorial Directory is nearly ready and will be available to parishioners in a few weeks. While there is no charge for the new directory, if you would like to help offset the cost of printing and production, a free-will offering will be gladly accepted! A huge “THANKS” to everyone who made this directory possible! **REMINDER:** your individual pictures can be viewed and purchased online. Simply direct your browser of choice to

**<http://www.cheryns.smugmug.com>**

and scroll down to “galleries” and select “St. Francis Directory 2023.” If you would like to purchase a photo, select an option from the menu on the left of the photo and follow the instructions ( a printed 8x12 photo is only \$6.25 and a downloaded photo is only \$.01—ONE PENNY!).



Occasionally, we run out of paper bulletins after our weekend Masses. If we have run out of bulletins, you can always request a paper bulletin from the church office or access our bulletins online at our website

[www.stfrancistownsend.org](http://www.stfrancistownsend.org).

Just click on the "Bulletin" icon/button on our website's home page and then select the week you wish to view. Additionally, you may choose to receive the weekly bulletin as an e-mail attachment simply by sending an e-mail with "E-Bulletin" in the subject line to:

**SFABulletin7717@gmail.com.**



Are you receiving your copy of the East Tennessee Catholic? All parishioners should be receiving this monthly publication. Several parishioners notified us recently that they weren't receiving them so we're trying

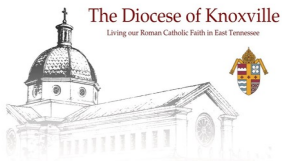
to make sure everyone is aware of this informative newspaper. Please contact the office if you are not receiving your copy.



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.

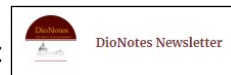


*- St. Joseph Marelló*



Are you receiving your weekly Diocesan DioNotes e-mails? DioNotes is an electronic/online newsletter covering the news, events, and the ministries of the Diocese of Knoxville. If you are not yet on the mailing list, and would like to be, go to [www.DioKnox.org](http://www.DioKnox.org), scroll down to the bottom of the page and

- ❶ click on the DioNotes Newsletter area:
- ❷ fill in the form that pops up
- ❸ click on the SUBMIT button at the bottom of the form.



**DioNotes**

a newsletter for our parishioners

DioNotes will be delivered (for free 😊) to your email inbox every Friday.



**KNOXVILLE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN  
MASS OF REMEMBRANCE - FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024**

At the Mass of Remembrance each woman of the Diocese who died between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024 is called by name. All are welcome to attend, especially the family and friends of the deceased women.

5:30 PM All Saints Parish - 620 N. Cedar Bluff Road, Knoxville, TN

# UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
4/26/2024	Mass of Remembrance 5:30 PM All Saints Church, Knoxville, TN	Online: KDCCW.org E-mail: michelle.kdccw@gmail.com Phone:
4/26-28/2024	Retreat: Living A Devout Life (in a Crazy World) Catholic Conference Center Hickory, NC	Online: Wwww.catholicconference.org E-mail: info@catholicconference.org Phone: 828-327-7441
4/27/2024	A Retreat Day for Women All Saints, Knoxville	Online: DioKnox.org/vocations E-mail: TheSingingLT@gmail.com Phone: 865-209-9097
5/15/2024	Vocations Story Night St. Alphonsus Catholic Church— Crossville, TN	Online: KDCCW.org E-mail: BParsons@DioKnox.org Phone: 865-584-3307
6/15/2024	Marriage Retreat: Living the Marriage God Desires for You St. Thomas in Lenoir City	Online: Tinyurl.com/KnoxMarriageRetreat E-mail: regnumchristi.knoxville@gmail.com Phone: 865-584-3307, ext. 5739
7/17-24/2024	Eucharistic Congress Pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, IN	Online: DioKnox.org/Revival E-mail: Revival@DioKnox.org Phone: 423-596-0181
7/26/2024	Tennessee Smokies Baseball Game Yee-Haw At the Yard Group Section	\$35.00 for adults; \$33.00 for children (12 and under) Contact the Parish Office to reserve tickets
9/10-19/2024	Pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes with Fr. Charles Robinson Coupon Code: Bulletin150	Online: Wwww.QoHTours.com E-mail: info@qohtours.com Phone: 800-213-4295
10/6-11/2024	Yellowstone National Park Retreat with Fr. Michael Cummins	Online: <a href="https://www.saintdominickpt.org/">https://www.saintdominickpt.org/</a> E-mail: secretary@saintdomchurch.com Phone: 423-288-8101