



APRIL 7, 2024 DIVINE MERCY 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	4/8	8:30 AM	Brian Barker †
Tue	4/9		
Wed	4/10		NO MASS
Thu	4/11	8:30 AM	Charlie Graham
Fri	4/12	8:30 AM	Shirley Keeven †
Sat	4/13	4:00 PM	
Sun	4/14	9:00 AM	John & Yvonne Peychal

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, Marcus Bolte, Johnny Mallory, Louann Felske

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: The sanctuary flowers are *in memory of Cam King given by Theresa Murphy*. 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. Faustina
(1905-1938)

“Holy Communion assures me that I will win the victory; and so it is. I fear the day when I do not receive Holy Communion. The bread of the Strong gives me all the strength I need to carry on my mission and to do whatever the Lord asks of me.”

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	4/8	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	4/9		
Wed	4/10	1:00 PM	Gus Lloyd Apologetics
Thu	4/11		
Fri	4/12		
Sat	4/13	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	4/14	9:00 AM	Mass



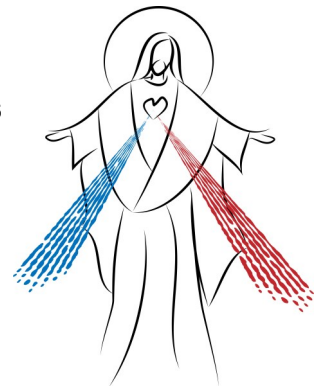
“Jesus, I Trust in You!”

In 2000, St. Pope John Paul II canonized St. Faustina, and made the second Sunday of Easter to be celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. St. Faustina was a Polish nun gifted with visions, messages, and revelations from the Risen Jesus. The image of the Divine Mercy of Jesus whose heart shone two rays, one red (representing blood) and the other “pale” (symbolizing water), with the words “Jesus, I trust in you” at the bottom, is as revealed to St. Faustina by Jesus. She wrote in her diary that Jesus told her, “I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish.”

Some other quotes from St. Faustina’s Diary:

- “Proclaim that mercy is the greatest attribute of God. All works of my hand are crowned with mercy” (No. 301).
- “ My child, life on earth is a struggle; indeed, a great struggle for my kingdom. But fear not, because you are not alone. I am always supporting you, so lean on Me as you struggle, fearing nothing. Take the vessel of trust and draw from the fountain of life – for yourself, but also for other souls, especially such as are distrustful of My goodness” (No. 1488).

As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, we reflect on the mercy of Jesus on Thomas. It was an act of mercy that Jesus repeated his appearance in order that Thomas might experience him. It was an act of mercy that Jesus allowed Thomas to touch his wounds and be healed of his doubt. When Thomas was healed, he became transformed. Thomas, then, made what I consider the greatest confession of faith: “My Lord, and My God.” (JN 20:28) Thomas confessed who Jesus was to him, his Lord and his God. Thomas invites us to ask ourselves, “Who is Jesus to me?” Not just what is said about Jesus. Thomas teaches us to have personal connection with Jesus. We experience the power of Jesus’ divine mercy more when we relate to him personally.



On Divine Mercy Sunday we pray, earnestly, that our trust in Jesus will increase and that by his sorrowful passion we will continue to experience his mercy on us and the whole world; for without him we can do nothing (John 15:5).



My mercy is greater than your sins and those of the entire world. Who can measure the extent of my goodness? For you I descended from heaven to earth; for you I allowed myself to be nailed to the cross; for you I let my Sacred Heart be pierced with a lance, thus opening wide the source of mercy for you. Come, then, with trust to draw graces from this fountain. I never reject a contrite heart. Your misery has disappeared in the depths of My mercy. Do not argue with Me about your wretchedness. You will give me pleasure if you hand over to me all your troubles and griefs. I shall heap upon you the treasures of My grace.



- *Jesus to St. Faustina; Diary #1485*

CATECHISM

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Good and Happy Second Sunday of Easter to you St. Francis parishioners! Today is the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday. This special day falls on the Second Sunday of Easter (which is today!). Although it is associated with St. Faustina Kowalska, it is not solely based on her revelations. In fact, the Second Sunday of Easter was already a solemnity as the Octave Day of Easter.

Pope Saint John Paul II was very passionate about the mission of revealing the mercy of Jesus to the world. In the year 2000, at the canonization Mass for St. Faustina, he announced that the Second Sunday of Easter would now be known as Divine Mercy Sunday. It must be made clear that this was not done in order to establish a way of honoring St. Faustina, but to emphasize the meaning of the Resurrection and the depths of God's great mercy and love that is made available to all of His creation.

In numerous passages in the Diary of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, Jesus spelled out for her "why, when, who, and what to expect" at this special banquet.

Why? In short, the main reason that Jesus wanted this feast to be established is that He wanted to "throw a lifeline," so to speak, to souls who are perishing, souls who are drowning in sin and despair. That lifeline is this Feast, with all the tremendous promises of graces and benefits which Jesus attached to it. Jesus gave us this Feast as both a comfort and a lifeline for souls. (Diary entry 1517)

When? This answer was given directly to St. Faustina on numerous occasions. For example, in Diary entry 299, Jesus said to her: "I desire that the First Sunday after Easter be the Feast of Mercy."

Who? In order to discover "who" is invited to this great Feast, and what kind of spiritual "banquet" our Lord wants to spread for us on that day, we need to read Diary entry 699. But I will give you a brief summary: He states clearly: "I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls" - that is, for all penitent souls without exception - but "especially" for "poor sinners." So, the special guests at the Feast of Mercy - the guests who will receive the most attention - are poor sinners, those who are most in need of His mercy. It is only repentant sinners who will be able to receive all the graces offered by Jesus on this special day. That is why Jesus asks us to prepare for this feast day by making a good confession.

What to expect? Our Lord wants His priests to proclaim the message of Divine Mercy in words on that day; He also wants the message to be proclaimed through a sacred image (the Image of The Divine Mercy) - a visual aid, so to speak - because He knows well the truth of what we commonly say: "A picture is worth a thousand words." Finally, we are to receive Holy Communion on the Feast Day itself.

I'd like to add how to prepare for this feast: Sincerely repent of all our sins; Place our complete trust in Jesus; Go to Confession, preferably before that Sunday; And be merciful to others, through our actions, words, and prayers on their behalf. (Does this sound familiar? Yup, you're right the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy!)

The title "Divine Mercy Sunday" highlights the meaning of the day, pointing us to the merciful love of God behind the entire Paschal Mystery — the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ — which is made present for us in the Eucharist. It beautifully sums up the entire Easter Octave as a day of thanksgiving for God's goodness to humanity.

Here's a little tidbit: In 1934 St. Faustina and her spiritual advisor sought out Eugeniusz Kazimirowski to paint the image. Have a most blessed week my wonderful St. Francis family!



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today, Jesus stands in the midst of us and says: "Peace be with you!"

During Mass we turn to each other and say "Peace be with you!" As you put your gift into the St. Vincent de Paul box you say "Peace be with you!" to those who are poor and hungry.

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 APRIL "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"



PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY



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.



**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)



*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



**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.



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!

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—3/31/2024

Holy Week Attendance:

Holy Thursday..... 65
Good Friday 50
Easter Vigil..... 70
Easter Sunday 230

Sunday Offertory \$3,494.00
Donation Box..... 00.00
Holy Days 582.00
Other Donations* 70.00
Donations for the Week..... \$4,146.00

Year-to-Date Donations \$141,877.73
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations 141,671.90
Year-to-Date Donation **Surplus** **\$205.83**

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund \$00.00
Parish Charity..... 00.00
Good Friday Pontifical Collection 429.00
Easter Sunday Seminarian Collection..... 1,441.00
Rice Bowls 188.69
Total Non-Budget Donations \$2,058.69

* 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

Thank you for providing the support that will save and change lives!

