

MAY 12, 2024

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

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.

ANOIDING 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 5/13 8:30 AM Brian Barker †
Tue 5/14 8:30 AM
Wed 5/15 **NO MASS**
Thu 5/16 8:30 AM Francis Angle †
Fri 5/17 8:30 AM
Sat 5/18 4:00 PM Elias Ventura † & Genoveva Fuentes †
Sun 5/19 9:00 AM Gerald Eberhardt

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, 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, Lori O'Toole, Marcus Bolte, Johnny Mallory, Louann Felske, Gary Pavis; Jack Troupe

SANCTUARY CANDLE *The Sanctuary Candle is lit in memory and honor of all women and mothers.* 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 Pam Moretti given by Jim Moretti.* 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.



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!

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon 5/13 9:00 AM Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue 5/14
Wed 5/15 **NO Gus Lloyd meetings until 6/5/24**
Thu 5/16
Fri 5/17
Sat 5/18 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
Sun 5/19 9:00 AM Mass



ASCENSION THURSDAY (SUNDAY)

A lot of people get confused about the Solemnity of the Ascension. It used to take place 40 days after Easter on a Thursday and was a Holy Day of obligation. When I was a boy, I never could understand why I had to rush home from school, change into my Sunday best and go to mass on a Thursday. It just didn't seem fair. Even my Protestant friends didn't go to church on Thursday! But off to church we went. Then several years ago the USCCB decided to move this Solemnity to the following Sunday. To be clear, it is still a Holy Day of obligation, as all Sundays are Solemnities in and of themselves. And so, with

the exception of a handful of dioceses in the United States, it is now celebrated on Sunday.

Why 40 days? In The Acts of the Apostles 1: 3, Luke tells us that "He presented Himself alive to them by many proofs after they suffered, appearing to them for 40 days and speaking about the kingdom of God."

When it was celebrated on Thursday, the Easter candle would be extinguished after the reading of the Gospel. It meant that the Risen Christ, represented by that candle during the Easter season, had ascended to the Father. After the Easter candle was extinguished, the Mass moved on to the Liturgy of the Eucharist where the Risen Christ was really present now under the sacramental signs of bread and wine. Afterwards the Easter candle would be placed in the back of the church next to the baptismal font, to be brought out for baptisms and funerals.

These symbols are still the same for us today as they were back then, even though we celebrate the Ascension on a Sunday now. And even though we keep the Easter candle lit until the Solemnity of Pentecost a week later.

Ascension Thursday expresses three great truths for us. The first great truth is the sense of triumphant victory. Jesus' ascending to the Father in glory was the fulfillment of His whole ministry and of His suffering and death. It teaches us that if we are faithful to Christ, we too will come into the glory of the Father with Jesus.

A second truth of Jesus' Ascension is to show where our real destiny is. We are made of earth but not destined to remain on earth. Heaven is our true home. St. Thomas Aquinas called heaven our "patria," our homeland. That complete fulfillment comes only in God. Here on earth our soul and heart are restless, as St. Augustine famously said, until they rest in God. The Ascension of Jesus shows us where our real destiny lies. Where Jesus has gone, we hope to follow. The Ascension shows that our real home is with God. Heaven is our real homeland. Until then, we are only renting.

The third truth the Ascension teaches is the reason for Jesus' departure. Until now in the Gospels, the Risen Christ unexpectedly appears and disappears. At the Ascension, Jesus left His disciples in such a dramatic way to show them and us that the time of His public appearances is over until His return in glory. There would be over time private revelations of the Lord to various individuals. From now on, though, the normal way that the Church will know Him would be in the sacraments and the Mass. This is how He would come to all of us.

The point of the Ascension for us is that to meet the Risen Christ today, we do not have to go to Jerusalem, Bethany, the upper room or the Mount of Olives. We only have to come to church.



CATECHISM

CORNER



In this week's Catechism Corner, I would like to continue to "talk" about some more Marian Apparitions.

Now, this next apparition may not be as well known as Our Lady of Guadalupe, but still in the top 10! The Sanctuary of **Our Lady of Laus**, is situated in the Southern Alps, and is a Catholic spiritual place of importance. It has its origins in the Virgin Mary's appearances to a shepherdess, Benoite Rencurel, between 1664 and 1718. Benoite was born into extreme poverty on September 16, 1647, in the village of St Etienne d'Avancon. Her father died when she was only seven. By the time Benoite was twelve she took employment tending sheep. Benoite, who was only 17 years old at this time, took her sheep to the Valley of Kilns on May 16, 1664, where she came to a grotto and a woman holding a child appeared to her. The Lady came to see Benoite every day for four months and it wasn't until August 29, 1664 that the Lady told her that her name was Mary. Mary told Benoite, "It is my desire that a new chapel be built here (Laus) in honour of my beloved Son. It will become a place of conversion for numerous sinners and I shall appear here very often."



Our Lady told Benoite that the oil from the sanctuary lamp would work miracles with the infirmed if they received the anointing with faith in her intercession. French philosopher and theologian Jean Guittou said, "The Shrine of Laus is one of the most hidden and also most powerful treasures in the history of Europe." More than 170,000 French and foreign visitors come to the Laus each year. The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Laus has hostel accommodations for several hundreds of persons. Surrounded by nature at an altitude of 900 meters, the hamlet of Our Lady of Laus is accessible by vehicle throughout the year.



The next apparition I'd like to "talk" about is much better known. It is of St. Catherine Labouré and the most famous and well known of all medals in Catholicism – **Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal**. Catherine was born on May 2, 1806, in the Burgundy region of France. She was the ninth child of 11 born to Pierre and Madeleine Laboure. Catherine's mother died when Catherine was just nine. At this time, it is said Catherine developed a very close relationship with our Mother Mary.

At age twenty-four, Catherine Labouré, after overcoming many obstacles, entered the Seminary (novitiate) at the Mother House of the Daughters of Charity, on rue du Bac in Paris, their founder is St. Vincent de Paul. It was here in the "The Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal" that the Blessed Virgin appeared to her several months later.

The first time on the night of July 18-19, 1830, was after a homily about St. Vincent DePaul, to tell her about a mission for her, the second time November 27, to show Catherine the medal that she was asked to have made. Mary told her: "Have a medal struck after this model. All who wear it will receive great graces; they should wear it around the neck."

In this chapel, chosen by God, the Virgin Mary came in person to reveal her identity through a little object, a medal, intended for all without distinction. In 1835 there were more than one million worldwide, and in 1839 more than 10,000,000 medals had been distributed. At the time of the death of Sister Catherine, in 1876, there were more than a billion medals. Pretty incredible! Catherine Laboure was canonized a saint by Pope Pius XII on July 27, 1947.

Next week, we will continue with some **more** Marian Apparitions! Have a wonderful week!



RESUMES WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH

1:00 PM - PARISH RESOURCE CENTER

Our discussion group **WILL NOT** be meeting during the month of May. Any questions, please contact Julie Dew: 954-749-3929; jdewtn2018@att.net

CCW AND CCETN BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER

4/20/24 - 5/20/24



Please consider participating in our Baby Bottle Fundraiser! The proceeds go toward helping young families in our community. Please pick up a baby bottle in Shea Hall and return it by May 20th.

For more information please contact:

pregnancyhelp@ccetn.org

www.ccetn.org

877-990-4673

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP—5/5/2024 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Attendance: 181

Sunday Offertory	\$5,018.00
Donation Box.....	20.00
Holy Days	00.00
Other Donations*	240.00
Donations for the Week.....	\$5,278.00

Year-to-Date Donations	\$159,222.73
Year-to-Date Budgeted Donations	159,351.95
Year-to-Date Donation Deficit	(\$129.22)

Other Donations Not in Budget

Maintenance Fund	\$1,500.00
Parish Charity.....	10.00
Second Collection	00.00
Other:	300.00
Total Non-Budget Donations.....	\$1,810.00

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

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



“Your vocation in life is where your greatest joy meets the world’s greatest need,”

- Frederick Buechner



A person does not choose a vocation. A vocation is a calling.

- David Brooks

VOCATIONS STORY NIGHT - WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024 - 5:30 PM



St. Alphonsus Catholic Church
Crossville TN



All Are Welcome!

Dinner and Desserts † Adoration † Vocation Stories



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today as we celebrate the feast of the Ascension we are reminded that Christ's saving work on earth continues through his disciples...and now through us.

When we give to the poor, God indeed pours his love, peace and joy into our hearts, into our lives and into the hearts of those who are 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 normally meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 5:00 PM in the PRC. **However, during the month of May, we will not be meeting.** When we resume our meetings, all Are Welcome!

Thank You

for your continued support of SVDP!

SVDP MAY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"

DISH SOAP



& SPONGES



SVDP members Bob and Debbie Eberhardt, Deacon Jim, Ron Graham, Ilene Rainwater, Norene O'Donnell, and Jim Moretti visited the Second Harvest Facility on Wednesday, May 8th for a tour of the facility with their Agent Representative Cynthia Thompson. The group learned how Second Harvest purchases, stores (4.2 million pounds), and distributes the food items.



Feel free to ask them questions - since they know it all now!

JOIN BISHOP BARRON IN PRAYING THE ROSARY DURING THE MONTH OF MAY



Last year Bishop Barron and Word on Fire Ministries celebrated the Virgin Mary during May by asking their supporters to help pray 10,000 Rosaries throughout the month for the intention that those who have left the Church might return.

People logged their Rosaries on the WordOnFire website so that their locations would appear on a map, and, within 48 hours, they had already exceeded their goal. By the end of the month, more than 64,000 Rosaries were prayed all over the world!

Bishop Barron is once again asking everyone to join in praying at least 50,000 Rosaries for the conversion of the lost sheep among us—and he would love to reach 100,000 this time! For more information, and to log your rosary online visit www.wordonfire.org/pray-rosary/.

Log Your Rosary



ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE
ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL
1810 HOWARD RD.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 7 (8:00 –3:00) &
SATURDAY, JUNE 8 (8:00-2:00)**

Donations of household items, furniture, toys, clothes, etc. will be accepted starting Tuesday, May 28 through Tuesday, June 4 from 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM every day except Sunday OR by appointment. Please bring items to the old gym entrance at the front of the building. Note: Large TVs and children's car seats are not accepted. Proceeds benefit the outreach and educational efforts of Tennessee Right to Life. For more information contact trlknox@prolifeknox.com or 865.689.1339.

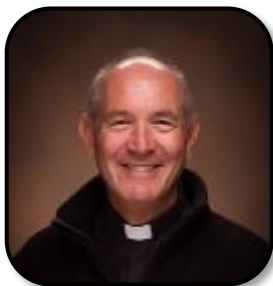
**INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE
DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST**



St. Teresa of Kolkata
(Mother Teresa)
(1910-1997)

*“Jesus has made Himself
the Bread of Life to give us life.
Night and day, He is there.
If you really want to grow in love,
come back to the Eucharist,
come back to that Adoration.”*

POPE FRANCIS APPOINTS FATHER JAMES MARK BECKMAN NEXT BISHOP OF KNOXVILLE



Pope Francis has appointed Father James Mark Beckman, 61, a priest of the Diocese of Nashville for more than three decades, as the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Knoxville. The appointment was announced in Washington, D.C., on May 7, 2024, by Cardinal Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

“I am blessed and honored to accept this appointment from the Holy Father,” Bishop-elect Beckman said. “I am a native Tennessean, and I am grateful that I can continue serving the Church and now the faithful of the Diocese of Knoxville in this region that I know well and love tremendously.”

Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre will continue to lead the Diocese of Knoxville as apostolic administrator until Bishop-elect Beckman's episcopal ordination in late July. For more information about Bishop-Elect Beckman, visit www.dioknox.org and click on the May 7 calendar date.



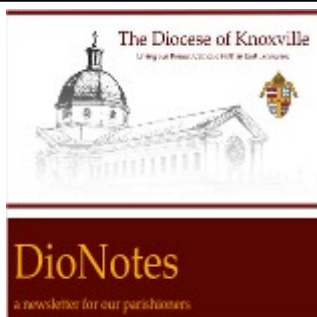
Happy Mother's Day !

**THE LOVELIEST MASTERPIECE
OF THE HEART OF GOD
IS THE HEART OF A MOTHER**

— ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
5/15/2024	Vocations Story Night St. Alphonsus Catholic Church— Crossville, TN	Online: KDCCW.org E-mail: BParsons@DioKnox.org Phone: 865-584-3307
6/7-8/2024	Tennessee Right to Life Annual Rum- mage Sale St. Joseph School (Knox)	Online: www.trtl.org E-mail: trlknox@prolifeknox.com Phone: 865-689-1339
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
6/24/2024	National Eucharistic Pilgrimage in Chattanooga 11:00 AM - 7:30 PM	Online: dioknox.org/revival Other: Scan QR code (Bulletin or Shea Hall poster)
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: Www.QoHTours.com E-mail: info@qohtours.com
10/6-11/2024	Yellowstone National Park Retreat with Fr. Michael Cummins	Online: https://www.saintdominickpt.org/ E-mail: secretary@saintdomchurch.com



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