



SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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 sfabulletin7717@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	9/2	8:30 AM	Dorothy Simons
Tue	9/3	8:30 AM	Normand & Therese Messier
Wed	9/4	NO MASS	
Thu	9/5	8:30 AM	Molly Pickett
Fri	9/6	8:30 AM	Lucille Weiland
Sat	9/7	4:00 PM	Vivian Brocato
Sun	9/8	9:00 AM	Elijah Clyde Mikkelsen

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 Montera, Claire Cheadle, Elise Martin, Mike Scully, Paul Fain, Joyce Fain, Raymond Payne, Sue Ann Tippitt, Charles Tippitt, Emmanuel Nwadike, Kay Walker, Julie Schirack, Jay Ladner, Deb Koehler, Laken DuRussel, Marcus Bolte, Johnny Mallory, Louann Felske, Kathy Meyerkord, Stephanie Romer, John & Maria Bermudes, Anne Pate, Tony Lee Bertsch

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 Margaret Jordan given by Eric & Gail Simmons.*

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. Effective September 1st, the cost for sanctuary flowers will be \$40.00 for one week.



Labor Day

Monday, 9/2/24



“Suffering whether it be physical, emotional, or spiritual - provides an opportunity for personal growth. It can especially help us to develop wisdom, compassion, and fortitude.”

- Sam Guzman
from his book, *The Catholic Gentleman*

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	9/2	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	9/3	9:30 AM	RCIA class PRC
		4:00 PM	RCIA class PRC
Wed	9/4	1:00 PM	Bible Study - PRC
		5:00 PM	SVdP Meeting - PRC
Thu	9/5		
Fri	9/6		
Sat	9/7	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	9/8	9:00 AM	Mass



TRADITION!

In the movie *Fiddler on the Roof*, the opening song is titled "Tradition." The song explores the importance of keeping a community together. The Jewish people in the movie have many traditions. The song talks about how these traditions are passed down from one generation to the next. They are an integral part of people's lives. There are traditions for praying, working hard, getting married, and what clothes to wear. The song tells of the struggle in trying to maintain these traditions and adapting to change. What makes this song so timeless is the fact that many of the traditions back then still apply today.

The word tradition actually means handing down something to others. The Catholic Church has many Traditions. These are practices and beliefs handed down by the Apostles and their successors over the centuries. These traditions are a way for Catholics to connect with their faith and with each other. They help us weave our faith into our daily lives.

In today's Gospel, the Lord does not criticize these traditions because He Himself kept many of them. What the Lord criticizes is traditions that are cut off from the faith that gives them life. These traditions do not automatically make a person holy. Holiness and sin are on the inside, the heart and soul of a person.

The truth the Lord is teaching His disciples and us is that all our traditions should express, renew, and deepen our faith. They make space in our life for God. They express but do not replace faith. We can apply that to ourselves. We have many traditions in the Catholic Church, and, in an increasingly secular world, they are badges of Catholic identity. They remind us of and express who we are and what we are called to be.

Attendance at Mass (especially weekday Mass), wearing a religious medal, hanging a crucifix at home, days and acts of penance, times of prayer, signs of respect for religious things and places are all ways that we let our faith grow and express itself concretely and visibly in our life. They are the ways that we strengthen our faith.

But these religious traditions can get cut off from the faith that gives them meaning. It is not just the caricature of people who bless themselves before rolling the dice at Atlantic City or who put a St. Christopher medal in their car and then drive recklessly. It is the danger that our religious practices can become automatic, almost an unthinking reflex.

We have a wonderful array of traditions in our Catholic life. They surround the seasons of the year in Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. They mark the passages of life in Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Anointing. They weave our faith into our daily life. These customs and traditions are all ways of sustaining our commitment to Christ and our Catholic identity. Following the Lord is not easy in today's world.

It is very easy for our faith to slowly recede to the back of the bus in our life. It's there, but in the back somewhere. That's why everything we have in the Church, the liturgy, the music, the teaching, the sacramentals, the seasons, the Holy Days, the gestures, the prayers are all geared to enable us to express and maintain our commitment to Christ.

We should respect and embrace the traditions of our faith. They are not little Catholic eccentricities. They are how we stay close to our roots, close to our Church, give our faith a concrete shape and sustain our commitment to Christ.

tradition

CATECHISM

CORNER



Hello St. Francis parishioners and welcome to September! I'm thinking summer should get a speeding ticket! Our summer has gone way too fast! Today in the Catechism Corner we will be "talking" about the Apostle Thomas.

Thomas was also known as Thomas Didymus or forever identified as doubting Thomas. Thomas was his Hebrew name, and Didymus a Greek nickname for, precisely, "twin." The reason for this nickname is unclear. His Hebrew name derives from a Hebrew root, ta'am, which means "paired, twin." He was a Galilean, like many of the other apostles, and every

time Thomas is mentioned in the Bible, he is somewhat of a doubter. He seems to have had some slight doubts when he is mentioned in the story of Lazarus being raised from the dead (John 11:11-16). He was also a bit skeptical when he asked Jesus how they would know the way to eternal life (John 14:16). And, of course, the infamous time when Thomas refused to believe that Jesus was alive unless he saw the holes and touched them himself (John 20:25) which prompted Jesus to bless those who have not seen and still believed (John 20:29).

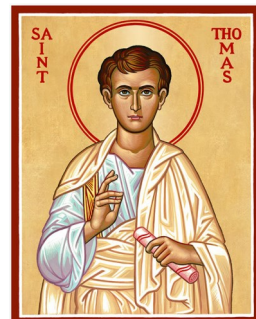
With the exception of the apostles Peter and his brother Andrew, the life of the apostle Thomas, his missionary journeys, his martyrdom, and the postmortem travels of his relics have the best documentation of all the rest of the Twelve. There are many reasons for this. I believe the best reason is the writings of many early Church Fathers and historians such as: Ephrem the Syrian, Cyril of Jerusalem, and Gregory of Tours that directly state that Thomas was the apostle of India.

Nothing is known with certainty regarding the early life and calling of Thomas to the original Twelve. Although Thomas is mentioned in the lists of the Twelve Apostles in the books of Matthew, Luke, Mark, and Acts, it is from the Gospel of John that we learn the most about him. (Note previous notations from John!) The one I would like to concentrate on is from John 20:29. Why wasn't Thomas present on the first Resurrection appearance? Of the many speculations, I agree with Richard Orzech who wrote that "the most likely reason for his absence was that, because of Thomas's sensitive countenance, he was so devastated by the previous days' events that he was physically unable to join his fellow apostles on that first Easter's evening in that Upper Room. First there was the shock of his fellow apostle Judas's betrayal. This heinous act, combined with sight of his beloved friend and master hanging dead and broken upon the Cross was more than he could bear." *The Twelve Apostles of Jesus* pgs. 190-191

Thomas' Missionary journeys are intense! He had traveled to modern day Pakistan, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan along the well-established Silk Road. Thomas, along with his brother apostles Jude, Thaddaeus, and Bartholomew, would establish the Church of the East, also known as the Nestorian Church. Several branches of this early Church, such as the Chaldean Catholic Church and the Assyrian Church of the East trace their apostolic authority directly to the apostle Thomas!!!

St. Thomas would further venture to the Indian state of Kerala and remain there for several years. The Marthoma Church (St. Thomas) and Marthoma Pontifical Shrine located near the town of Kodungalloor both stand today at the spot where the apostle first stepped ashore on the subcontinent. The apostle would be responsible for six more churches up and down the Malabar Coast of Kerala. According to the tradition recounted in the "Songs of Thomas," he converted the king and his extended family, many Jews, and more importantly, 3,000 Brahmin Hindus. Tradition states he arrived in the land of southeastern India called Tamil Nadu today in 69 AD. He arrived in the Chinese seaport of Lianyungang confirmed by recent archaeological finds near this city. The Chinese orthodox Church says that they get their direct apostolic authority from the Apostle Thomas!

Now an older man, St. Thomas reappears in the southeast coastal city of Madras (modern-day Chennai) where he withdraws from the world to a cave on top of a small



Continued on next page

mountain outside of the city limits to spend his remaining earthly days in prayer. Tradition tells us that St. Thomas greatly angered the local Hindu priests of the goddess Kali because of his success at converting the locals to the Good News of Jesus or simply that he was an extraordinary man. The priest planned to have him executed. On December 23, 72 AD, while at prayer in his cave on the top of what is today referred to as St. Thomas Mount, the dedicated servant of God met his martyrdom by being stabbed in the back by three spears. However, these three men and their coconspirators did nothing to stem the tide of the new religion. Today, there are over seventy-one million Christians on the Indian subcontinent who directly trace their religious roots to this great man!

The long journey of St. Thomas's mortal remains to where they rest today in the Italian port city of Ortona is the most well documented of all of the other Twelve, except for St. Peter. The journey is long and involved and space will not allow me, so there's your homework! St. Thomas pray that we may increase in our faith! Next week we will "talk" about Matthew.



SEASON OF CREATION RETREAT SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024



8:00 A.M.	Depart from Knoxville
10:00 A.M.	Arrive at St. Dominic's Church in Kingsport
10:00 – Noon	Presentation by Fr. Mike Cummins* and Discussion
Noon – 1:00 P.M.	Brown Bag Lunch (bring your own lunch and beverage)
1:00 P.M.	Drive to Bays Mountain and tour animal enclosures
2:00 P.M.	Wolf Feeding followed by a short hike (if desired)
3:00 P.M.	Return to Knoxville

*Fr. Mike Cummins leads retreats to Yellowstone National Park with presentations, meditation and prayer combined with daily explorations of the park. Fr. Mike has also volunteered with the wolf program at Bays Mountain.

ALERT: This is the same Saturday as the UT/Alabama football game in Knoxville.

Our Knoxville group will be limited to 30 individuals. If you are interested in making this trip, please contact either Vicki Christensen at vickiverik@aol.com or Connie Brace at cjbrace@yahoo.com no later than September 15, 2024.



**RECYCLE YOUR OLD
MAGNIFICAT AND GIVE US THIS DAY ISSUES**



The local Franciscan Fraternity is collecting outdated *Magnificat* or *Give Us This Day* issues to recycle and repurpose.

Parts of these wonderful monthly prayer books are being used to create Mass Booklets for RCIA participants in the Diocese. The Franciscan Fraternity is hoping to make 600 Mass Booklets that will be distributed to RCIA candidates throughout the diocese to help them learn about the faith they are studying and preparing to enter into.



If you would like to be a part of this effort, please place your prayer books in the designated basket in Shea Hall (near the SVdP basket).

**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."*



Eucharisticrevival.org



RCIA AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

For this coming liturgical year, Bishop Mark wishes to leave the old rites in place rather than switch mid-year to OCIA. So.... our RCIA classes will be held in the PRC (the Parish Resource Center) on Tuesdays at 9:30 AM and again at 4:00 PM and will run for about an hour and a half. Both morning and afternoon classes will contain the same material so there is no requirement to attend BOTH sessions, you may choose EITHER the morning session OR the afternoon session.

All are welcome! Whether you are inquiring about the Catholic faith or are already a Catholic wishing to learn more about your faith, please join us! Bring your Bible and a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Jim: sfadeacon7717@gmail.com OR 901-493-2123.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The gospel today hits home closer than we may think. What traditions do we blindly cling to? Perhaps it is enough for us just to go to Mass on Sunday? Do we keep the letter of the law and miss entirely the spirit of the law? Interior righteousness means a heart turned to God. Purity of heart is expressed in righteous living: self-giving for the sake of others.

As you give your gift to the poor through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, in your heart you also will find the good news of God's love.

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 to attend!

Thank You
for your continued support of SVDP!

SVDP SEPTEMBER "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" PAPER TOWELS AND TISSUES



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION - 9/6/24



*"Always remain close
to the Catholic Church,
because it alone
can give you true peace,
since it alone possesses
Jesus in the
Blessed Sacrament,
the true Prince of
Peace."*

- St. Padre Pio

Mass: 8:30 AM
Adoration: 9:00 - Noon
Healing Service: 9:00
Benediction: Noon

If you are interested in committing to a Holy Hour,
please contact Jackie Wagner at 330-807-8663.



NEW HEALING MINISTRY AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH!

We have begun our healing ministry here at St. Francis of Assisi that will complement our First Friday of the Month Mass and Adoration. Our first Healing Ministry Service will be offered immediately following the First Friday Mass in September:

Friday, September 6, 2024

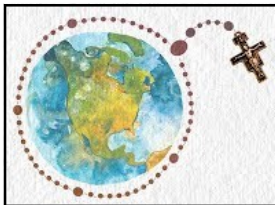
The healing service will be held in the sacristy (individual sessions) and will be offered concurrently with the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration will close at Noon with benediction.

If you would like to be trained to be a part of the healing team that will pray over individuals after the Mass, please call Darlene Leitz at 574-238-1705 or email darby321@comcast.net for more information.

*"Heal me, Lord, that I may be healed;
save me, that I may be saved,
for you are my praise." (Jeremiah 17:14)*

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
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 Phone: 800-213-4295
9/20/2024	Multilingual Rosary Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus - 7:00 PM	Online: https://www.dioknox.org/registro-de-rosario.. Other: Scan QR code on flyer in Shea Hall Phone: 865-637-4769
10/6-11/2024	Yellowstone National Park Retreat with Fr. Michael Cummins	Online: https://www.saintdominickpt.org/ E-mail: secretary@saintdomchurch.com Phone: 423-288-8101
10/19/2024	Season of Creation Retreat with Fr. Michael Cummins Bays Mountain Park - Kingsport, TN	Online: N/A E-mail: vickiverik@aol.com OR cjbrace@yahoo.com Phone: N/A
12/15/24	Parish Christmas Party at The Barn Event Center in Townsend	Online: N/A E-mail: stfrancistownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070



MULTILINGUAL ROSARY/ROSARIO MULTILINGÜE

Join in praying a Multilingual Rosary for Migrants and Refugees on Friday, September 20 at the Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (711 S. Northshore Dr. Knoxville, TN 37919) at 7 pm. We will pray the intentions, mysteries, and prayers of the Rosary in multiple languages. After the Rosary, join us to learn more about different cultures at an international potluck we will have at the Chancery.

Register using the following link <https://dioknox.org/registro-de-rosario-multilingue> or call 865.637.4769. You may also scan the QR code on the flyer on the diocesan bulletin board in Shea Hall. All are welcome!

Los invitamos a asistir a un Rosario Multilingüe por los inmigrantes y refugiados el viernes 20 de septiembre en la Catedral del Sacratísimo Corazón de Jesús (711 S. Northshore Dr. Knoxville, TN 37919) a las 7 pm. Rezaremos las intenciones, misterios y oraciones del Rosario en múltiples idiomas. Después del Rosario, acompáñenos a aprender más sobre diferentes culturas en un compartir de comida internacional que tendremos en la Cancillería.

Regístrese usando el siguiente enlace <https://dioknox.org/registro-de-rosario-multilingue> o llamando al 865.637.4769. ¡Todos son bienvenidos!