



SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 23RD 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 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	9/9	8:30 AM	Jeanne Vilardo
Tue	9/10	8:30 AM	Charlie Graham
Wed	9/11	NO MASS	
Thu	9/12	8:30 AM	Gabriel Ruiz
Fri	9/13	8:30 AM	Gary Trower
Sat	9/14	4:00 PM	Elias Ventura & Genoveva Fuentes
Sun	9/15	9:00 AM	Debbie Eberhardt & Brooks Watson

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, 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.

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

***Pope St. Leo the Great
(c. 400-461)***

*“Our sharing
in the Body and Blood of Christ
has no other purpose
than to transform us
into that which we receive.”*



Eucharisticrevival.org



“ Mankind
is always changing;
God’s truth stands for ever.”

- Thomas à Kempis
from his book, *The Imitation of Christ*

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	9/9	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	9/10	9:30 AM	RCIA class PRC
		4:00 PM	RCIA class PRC
Wed	9/11	1:00 PM	Bible Study - PRC
Thu	9/12		
Fri	9/13		
Sat	9/14	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	9/15	9:00 AM	Mass



DON'T GIVE UP ON GOD TOO SOON

In our first reading, we hear the prophet Isaiah speaking words of encouragement to God's people during their captivity in Babylon. He proclaims: "Be strong, fear not! Here is your God...he comes to save you." God's salvation is expressed in terms of numerous blessings among which are healing the blind, the deaf, the lame, and the mute. The reading prepares us for the gospel where Jesus heals a man who was a deaf mute. Jesus' healing work was a work of compassion, but it also announced in a dramatic way the saving pres-

ence of God among his people. In our own times of trial, we need to remind ourselves over and over that God is with us. In some way, even if we do not understand it, he is touching us with his saving love.

In today's gospel we are shown how Jesus may touch us with his healing love if we ask him. Remember in today's gospel passage when people (friends and family) brought the deaf man to Jesus, they "begged" Jesus to cure the man? What does that tell us about prayer? First of all, many people were involved here, asking for a favor from our Lord, and they didn't give up asking. They approached Jesus with a sense of urgency and expectation that Jesus would respond to their request. So, if we need our Lord's help, we should enlist others to pray with us and, most of all, we should not give up praying when we don't get what we want right away. People give up on God too fast. When they don't get from God what they want immediately, they turn away and say, "God just doesn't hear me." Jesus even preached a couple of parables about praying without ceasing – that we are to keep on knocking when we need his help.

Another interesting thing in this healing is that Jesus told the people not to tell anyone about it. One simple interpretation is that Jesus was not looking for fame or popularity. He wasn't advertising in order to start a healing business. He wasn't trying to prove anything. He cared about people and wanted to help those who came to him for help. It's just what he did.

Not only did he heal people himself, he sent his disciples to do the same thing. "They drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them." (Mark 6, 13) They were not always as successful as Jesus, but they did many good things.

We see in the *Acts of the Apostles* how Peter and Paul performed many miraculous deeds. Jesus promised his apostles: "Amen, Amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father." (Jn. 14, 12)

Healings still happen if we don't give up on God too soon. I've seen them happen and I have a great confidence in the Sacrament of the Sick. I also believe in medical professionals when necessary, but I also believe that today's gospel is telling us Jesus is still at work in the world, saving and healing.



Catechetical Sunday - September 15, 2024

***Blessing of ALL Church volunteers
at the Saturday and Sunday Masses next weekend***



CATECHISM



Welcome to the Catechism Corner! Today we will be highlighting the Apostle Matthew! The name Matthew comes from the Hebrew name Mattityahu, which means “gift of God” or “gift of Yahweh.” The English version comes from the Latin Matthaeus, and the Greek Mathaios. The Apostle Matthew is mentioned by name in all four lists of the Twelve Apostles in the Gospels and Acts. It is in Matthew 9 that he is called by Jesus. He is also referred to as Levi in Mark 2:14 and Luke 5:27. As I’ve written about before, this two-different-name phenomenon was not uncommon in the New Testament Gospels and has led to some confusion over the past two millennia. However, in the case of Matthew/Levi, there is total agreement among scholars that the two men are one and the same.

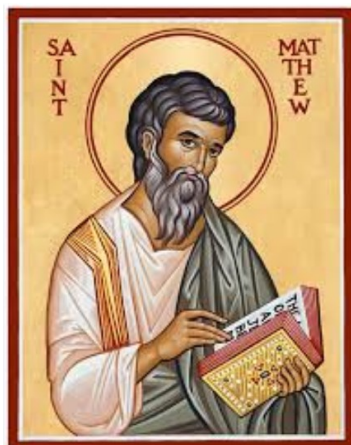
Matthew was born a Galilean and is described as being the son of a man named Alphaeus. Now, there is some confusion (I know... NOT again!) as to whether or not this is the same Alphaeus who is also mentioned as the father of the Apostle James the Less. This would make James and Matthew either brothers or stepbrothers. The general consensus is that this is not the case, that there are two different men named Alphaeus. The greatest evidence for this is that whenever there is a genuine brother kinship, the Gospels clearly state this relationship. The two best examples of this are that of Andrew and Peter and of James the Greater and John.

At the time of his calling by Jesus, Matthew was in Capernaum and was employed by the roman government as a customs duty collector – that is, a tax collector. In today’s world, this is not very significant. However, in the days of Christ, tax collectors were among the most hated and despised people by their fellow countrymen and the Jerusalem Pharisees. This hatred for Matthew by the Jews was demonstrated in the Gospel of Luke 5:31-32. In addition, this disgust for tax collectors was due to them being notoriously unjust. They collected money that wasn’t theirs and then loaned it out at high rates of interest, much like the banks do today! Today, it’s normal, back then he was a criminal.

Matthew was a great disciple and was the first to write down the teachings of Jesus in the Hebrew language. He was more educated than the other disciples, being fluent in Greek, Aramaic, and Hebrew, and would ultimately gain eternal renown as the author of the Gospel of Matthew. Now you may have heard the controversy that he was not the author of the Gospel that bears his name, well to that person or people – I will not differ with 1900 years of Church tradition! Clement of Alexandria (150-215 AD) stated that after Pentecost (and the Ascension of Jesus), Matthew remained in Jerusalem and the local region of Judea for fifteen years. This would mean that as one of the original Twelve, he would have been a witness to the martyrdom of his fellow apostle, James the Greater, and of another fellow apostle, James the Less, elevated to the authority of the first bishop of Jerusalem. He would be well aware of the work being done among the Gentiles by Peter and of a former enemy, Paul of Tarsus. Our Early Church Father, Papias of Hierapolis (100-140 AD) said “that during this turbulent period of early Christian history, the Apostle Matthew most likely collected the sayings of or about Jesus and interpreted each one the best he could. AND the Church historian Eusebius of Caesarea (260-339 AD) states that the Book of Matthew was written by Matthew for the first generation of Christians still living in Judea and Samaria. To further clear up any other controversies/confusion, St. Jerome stated that “he had personally seen early copies of the Gospel of Matthew written in Hebrew!” *The Twelve Apostles of Jesus* by Richard Orzeck p. 159

There is a tremendous amount of confusion and contradictions among historians and the early Church Fathers regarding Matthew’s missionary journeys and martyrdom after the apostle finally left Jerusalem. The first reason is the author of the Gospel of Matthew is often confused with another member of the Twelve Apostles named Matthias -

Continued on next page



simply because both names are derived from the Hebrew term Mattityahu. The second reason for the confusion has to do with the precise historical location of Ethiopia in the ancient world. This small detail is important to understand because although he is thought to have preached in many places, Matthew is considered by the vast majority of historians and theologians as the apostle of Ethiopia and Egypt.

According to ancient sources, the apostle Matthew was martyred by a swordsman in Ethiopia while celebrating Mass by order of a king, whom Matthew had criticized for lusting after a "nun." For the last 1,000 years, the majority of the bones of Matthew have rested in the crypt below the main altar in the Cathedral of San Matteo (St. Matthew) in Salerno Italy. The history of how they arrived here at this western Italian seaport is plagued with legend and conflicting accounts of their journey – I know, I know.... so many questions. Remember, there was no internet back then and NO maps!

He was the impossible situation that Jesus made possible. He is a prime example of the fact that God can call anyone. Next week, the Apostle James, son of Alphaeus. St. Matthew, pray for us! Have a blessed week!



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.





CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH CHRISTMAS BOX OF JOY PROGRAM

Our St. Francis of Assisi Council of Catholic Women group is once again sponsoring the Cross Catholic Outreach Christmas Box of Joy project. A Box of Joy is a Christmas shoebox that is donated and packed with toys, clothing, school supplies and other treasured items by U.S. parishes, schools and groups. Each child who receives a Box of Joy also receives a rosary and a booklet in their own language that tells the story of Jesus. Boxes of Joy are sent to children in developing countries like Haiti, Malawi and the Dominican Republic and provide hope to children in need: Each gift represents Christ's love, and may be the only Christmas gift they receive.

You can fill your own Christmas Shoebox (available in the PRC or at the St. Clare Gift Shop) or purchase a box online at <https://crosscatholic.org/box-of-joy/> and then click on "Donate a Box of Joy Online." If you choose to fill your own box, the box needs to be returned to the church by November 1st so that we can get them to the Diocese drop-off point. CCW will pay the \$9.00 shipping fee. If you have any questions, please contact Ilene Rainwater at 865-748-1873.



SECOND COLLECTION SEPTEMBER 14 & 15, 2024 ST. MARY'S LEGACY MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC

St. Mary's Legacy Mobile Medical Clinic visits 8 medically underserved rural areas of East Tennessee monthly providing healthcare and telehealth to the poor and uninsured. This "doctor's office on wheels" is run by a small staff and the help of over 75 volunteer physicians, nurses, and community members who donate their time and talent to this great ministry. The Clinic provides primary health care, and access to advanced care through community partnerships. As an osteopathic physician, and the Clinic's Medical Director, Sr. Mary Lisa Renfer, RSM, DO provides a "whole-person" approach, which considers both the physical and mental needs of SMLC patients. To learn more, visit www.SMLCares.com. Please be generous in supporting this great medical ministry.



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

In today's Gospel we hear how Jesus "makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!" In living the gospel, we must open our ears to hear and recognize all the everyday opportunities for making God's presence known - especially to those who are poor and suffering.

On September 9, the Church also celebrates the feast of Blessed Frederic Ozanam, the founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Frederic heard the call of Jesus to love and serve those who are suffering.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can "make God's presence known" to those who are suffering and 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 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



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.

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)*



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).



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 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

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!