



SEPTEMBER 22, 2024 25TH 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 4:00PM (Vigil Mass) The Rosary is prayed 35 minutes before each Weekend Mass
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 PM (Church confessional)
Sunday Before Mass: 8:15 - 8:40 AM (Church confessional)
Confessions may also be scheduled by calling the parish office for an appointment.
HOLY DAYS: Check bulletin or website

PARISH MINISTRY TEAM

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| PASTOR | Rev. Antonio Giraldo | GARDENS & GROUNDS | Ilene Rainwater |
| DEACON | Deacon Jim Schmall | FACILITIES | David Girard |
| OFFICE MANAGER | Kathy Meyerkord | SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE | JoAnne Romer-Aylward |
| BOOKKEEPER | Kathleen Halligan | PASTORAL CARE | Suzie Fay |
| LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTOR | JoAnne Romer-Aylward | ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP | Camilla Sorrell |
| DIR. OF RELIGIOUS ED. | Julie Dew | COLUMBARIUM | Bob Eberhardt |
| RCIA/OCIA | Bruce Boudin | WELCOMING, EVENTS & | All Parishioners |
| ART & ENVIRONMENT | Norene O'Donnell | SOCIALS TEAM (WEST) | |

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 office a minimum of six months prior to the wedding for planning and preparation.

ANOIDTING 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.



How can St. Francis of Assisi be of assistance/service to you & your loved ones?
Please contact Suzie Fay with our Pastoral Care Ministry at 423-829-5466 or the Parish office at 865-448-6070.

MASS INTENTIONS: (Mass cards are available upon request at the office.)

| | | | |
|------------|-------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mon | 9/23 | 8:30 AM | Grace Hearth |
| Tue | 9/24 | 8:30 AM | Nicholas C. Provenzo |
| Wed | 9/25 | NO MASS | |
| Thu | 9/26 | 8:30 AM | Charlie Graham |
| Fri | 9/27 | 8:30 AM | Pat Baker |
| Sat | 9/28 | 8:30 AM | Joe, Samantha & Eli James Eberhardt |
| Sun | 9/29 | 9:00 AM | Normand Messier |

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, Michael Slater

SANCTUARY CANDLE: *The sanctuary candle is lit in memory of Jamie Clapp given by Jim Moretti.* 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 Dorothy Simons and Molly Pickett given by Eric & 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 for sanctuary flowers is \$40.00 for one week.



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

***Venerable Fulton J. Sheen
(1895 - 1979)***

"As a man must be born before he can begin to lead his physical life, so he must be born to lead a Divine Life. That birth occurs in the Sacrament of Baptism. To survive, he must be nourished by Divine Life; that is done in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist."



Eucharisticrevival.org

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

| | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Mon | 9/23 | 9:00 AM | Church & Hall Cleaning |
| Tue | 9/24 | 4:00 PM | RCIA Class - PRC |
| Wed | 9/25 | 1:00 PM | NO Bible Study - PRC |
| Thu | 9/26 | | |
| Fri | 9/27 | | |
| Sat | 9/28 | 4:00 PM | Vigil Mass |
| Sun | 9/29 | 9:00 AM | Mass |



PASTOR'S NOTES

THE WAY WE TREAT EACH OTHER IS THE WAY WE TREAT CHRIST

Today's readings play with the question of why we should bother to be good. Living an ethical life is demanding; it requires us to examine our consciences, own up to our feelings, and strive to be better. We don't always get a physical reward out of it. In fact, it can sometimes seem that those who do not take this kind of responsibility are better off—living without guilt and simply enjoying life.

Expecting something in return for our goodness is the logic displayed by the wicked people of the first reading. They argue that if just people are really in the right, they ought to be able to count on protection from God. It is not only fully wicked people who think this way; Jesus' disciples fall into this pattern, too. They argue over who is the greatest, seeking honor and recognition for what they have given up to follow Christ. They deeply misunderstand the purpose of their own labors.

Jesus, speaking to his apostles, said this; "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Does the image of the last being first reflect the ideals of our nation? Do we put the most vulnerable first? What is our obligation to helping those who are affected by war, poverty, plague, chronic illness, or challenges with mental health? Is our nation built upon a bedrock that allows all people to flourish, or only a chosen few?

At the heart of conflict, disorder, and strife are the sins of jealousy and selfishness. Born out of entitlement, privilege, and rampant consumption is the never-ending and all-consuming desire for more. More wealth. More comfort. More security. More individuality. These things, in themselves, are not evil. However, so often, "more" is achieved through the exploitation of others and a primal fear that leads us to look after our own needs before the needs of others.

So too do many of us think along these lines: We believe that our efforts earn us the good things that come to us in this life. But God's logic is not our own and imposing our own parameters on God's action is always a recipe for disappointment. That is not to say that God is not generous; God gives us graces and gifts far beyond our comprehension. But God's gifts do not always come according to our own plans or on our expected timeline, and so they can be hard to receive. Jesus combats his disciples' pride by placing a child in their midst. Receiving children also defies our usual moral calculus. We don't always get much out of it, and yet all of us are called to it, whether as parents or as teachers or simply as decent members of a society who sometimes have to share public space with children. There are nice moments when our hearts are mercifully filled with a child's sweetness, but very often, dealing with children leaves us running on empty. Expecting our children to fill us up or to offer a reward for our investment in them is a recipe for disappointment. And yet, continuing to nurture and attend to them is simply the right thing to do.

When we engage with others without expecting a reward, we become like servants. It doesn't feel particularly good, and yet we are all called to treat children – and each other – this way. We are called to patience and gentleness and understanding in all our interactions. Even though it does not always look or feel like it, the way we treat each other is the way we treat Christ.



RCIA AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

Our RCIA classes have begun! Whether you are inquiring about the Catholic faith or are already a Catholic wishing to learn more about your faith, please join us in the PRC (Parish Resource Center) on Tuesdays at 4:00 PM! All are welcome! 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.

CATECHISM

CORNER



THE APOSTLE SIMON

Today's Catechism Corner is all about the Apostle Simon, but again not too much is known from the New Testament about the apostle Simon. The only times he's mentioned in the Synoptic Gospels and Acts is when the evangelist lists the names of the Twelve. Even in these simple lists, there is some mild confusion. (I bet you didn't see that coming!)

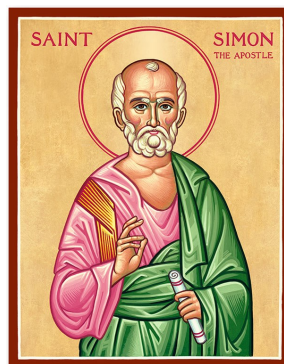
Depending on which New Testament translation one reads, his name has also been listed as: Simon Kananaïos; Simon Kananites; Simon the Cananean; and Simon Zealotes. Because of these various names, over the centuries it was assumed that the Apostle Simon was from Cana, the Biblical site of the wedding feast where Jesus performed His first miracle by turning water into wine. Language experts (which I am not) now say that the words Kananaïos and Kananites both derive from the Hebrew word qana (kana), which means "zealot."

There is even confusion over the designation *zealot*. First, it was important for the New Testament authors to differentiate between the two apostles named Simon. Simon Peter became known simply as Peter and the second Simon became Simon the Zealot. In the Gospels and Acts, it is unclear why the authors chose the term *zealot*. The easy answer most people like is that he was a member of a group of Jewish revolutionaries who were intent on ridding the Holy Land of their Roman occupiers. A relatively recent interpretation of the word suggests that the apostle was given the nickname because it reflected his zeal for the good news being shared by his friend and teacher, Jesus. (I like this explanation better!)

What is known of Simon is that he was chosen by Jesus at some time during His ministry to be one of His original Twelve Apostles. Why he was chosen, doesn't really matter; Jesus saw something in Simon that made him special. He would then go on to be a firsthand witness to Jesus' healing miracles and Resurrection. Simon would have heard the Sermon on the Mount; he would have been there at the Miracle of the loaves and fishes. He would have consumed the sanctified bread and wine at the Last Supper; been at the Garden of Gethsemane, and then left Jesus (like Peter) to suffer His Passion alone. BUT Simon would have redeemed himself – as all of the other apostles (except Judas Iscariot) – after Pentecost, by spreading the Gospel to the ends of the earth!

Where the Apostle Simon went after receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is a matter of confusing and improbable speculation. I bet you didn't see THAT coming! There is very strong evidence that St. Simon went to the Caucasian Iberia which is the ancient Greek term for the old kingdom of Georgia. Historically, this was land between the Caspian Sea and the eastern Black Sea, whose most prominent geologic feature is the Caucasus Mountains. Weriosphora is the region of the ancient kingdom of Georgia that is presently known as the Republic of Abkhazia (borders Russia and Georgia). There is a very strong local tradition that says it was here that the Apostle Simon preached the Gospel the last ten years of his life. It was here in 55 AD, during the roman persecution, that he was martyred for his faith and was originally buried.

St. Simon's original burial place is at an area called New Athos in a tiny white Orthodox Church called St. Simon the Canaanite. It was in these mountains that St. Simon would hide in a cave from the region's Roman Soldiers who had been sent to kill him and all his Christian converts. The cave is visited by hundreds of pilgrims on a daily basis. It was in this wooded area near the cave that St. Simon was martyred. Legend says he met his death by being sawed in half. St. Simon's final resting place is right next to St. Peter's martyrdom site. The Chapel of St. Joseph is built right over the crypt containing the earthly remains of Simon. How the Apostle's bones arrived there is a complete mystery. But more than likely the relics were saved and moved because of Muslim invasion.



Continued on next page

The name Simon comes from the Hebrew word *Shim'on*, which means "he has heard." He heard the Truth from our Savior and spread the Good News to the "ends of the earth." Perhaps this was his special attribute that appealed to Jesus when he was choosing His special twelve followers. This may have been why the Lord gave him the nickname "The Zealot." Rather than trying to grab the limelight as did Peter and the sons of Zebedee throughout the Gospels, Simon humbly chose instead to listen and learn, literally at the feet of his Master, with an intensity and a zeal that made him stand out among his peers.

"Simon, the unknown apostle, is the patron of the countless Christians who go through life without fame, without a name. He is the patron saint of couriers, tanners, woodcutters and sawyers. He is the patron of the army of unknown workers in the vineyard of the Lord, who toil in the last places for the kingdom of God. He is the patron of the unknown soldiers of Christ, who struggle on the disregarded and thankless fronts. No one notices, no one praises, no one rewards this obscure and often misunderstood apostle – no one except the Father, who sees through all obscurity, who understands all misjudgments." *The Twelve Apostles of Jesus* by Richard Orzeck p. 62

We have three more Apostles to "talk" about, but next week, we are going to discuss Guardian Angels! St. Simon – pray for us!! Have a wonderful week filled with many blessings!



WELCOMING EVENTS & SOCIAL TEAM MEETING

Thursday, October 3, 2024

4:00 PM in Shea Hall

If you are a member of this parish, you are automatically (😊) a member of this team!

A special "shout-out" to all of our new parishioners: we would love to add your fresh faces and perspectives to our team meetings! Please come and join in the Fall and Winter planning activities for our parish!

Fall Fun Fest



SAVE THE DATE!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

SHEA HALL 6-9 PM

FOOD

FUN

CRAFTS

**COSTUME
CHALLENGE**

GAMES

MORE INFORMATION TO COME!

Save the Date!

Parish Family

Christmas Party

December 15th

*The Barn Event Center
in Townsend*



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, please return the box 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.



kroger community rewards

Thank you St. Francis of Assisi Parishioners!

We have 24 households participating in the Kroger Community Rewards Program, and during the months of June, July and August those households have earned the church

\$76.84

If you are not yet participating in this wonderful program, please visit Kroger's website and get started!

You shop. Our church gets "free" money!

Direct your browser to <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards> (Our NPO number is XP941).

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS AT 1:00 PM IN THE PRC (PARISH RESOURCE CENTER)

THE GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO
JOHN



DR. ALLEN HUNT

We have completed 3 of the 9 sessions in our Gospel of John Bible Study experience! But, it's not too late to participate in this unique Bible Study experience! This Bible Study introduces you to eight miraculous encounters with Jesus in the Gospel of John

that will help you encounter Jesus in a new and personal way. To learn more about this study please visit <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com> and search for (top left corner) The Gospel of John. To learn more about the sessions at St. Francis of Assisi, please contact Julie Dew at 954-749-3929 or JDewtn2018@att.net. **We are taking a "FALL BREAK" and will not meet on 9/25 or 10/2. Our sessions will resume on 10/9! Come and study with us on the 9th!**



*Beside each believer
stands an angel
as protector and shepherd
leading him to life.*

- St. Basil



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

Open after weekend Masses and by request/appointment after daily Mass



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel Jesus called the Twelve, and said to them, *"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."* Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, *"Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me."* Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will help hungry children feel the arms of Jesus around them.

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



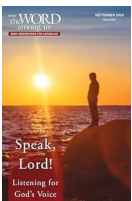
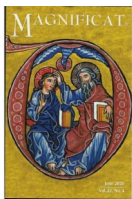
NEW HEALING MINISTRY AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH!

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 *THE WORD AMONG US* ISSUES



The local Franciscan Fraternity is collecting outdated *Magnificat* or *The Word Among Us* issues to recycle and repurpose. **After careful consideration, the Fraternity cannot accept *Give Us This Day* due to incompatible formatting.**

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 |
|--------------|--|--|
| 10/1/2024 | CCW Meeting 9:15 Shea Hall | Online: N/A E-Mail: lrainwater@hotmail.com Phone: 865-748-1873 |
| 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 |
| 10/14/2024 | Call to Action: All Day Prayer Vigil Planned Parenthood Opening 710 Cherry Street, Knoxville, TN | Online: N/A E-mail: cmr.easttennessee@gmail.com Phone: N/A |
| 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 |
| 10/25/2024 | Parish Family Fall Get Together Shea Hall 6:00 PM | Online: N/A E-mail: stfrancistownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070 |
| 11/16/2024 | Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Com- munion Training Shea Hall 10:00 AM | Online: N/A E-mail: komesseenger@gmail.com Phone: 225-572-7663 |
| 12/15/2024 | Parish Christmas Party at The Barn Event Center in Townsend | Online: N/A E-mail: stfrancistownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070 |



Catholic Women of the Parish you are invited to attend the October meeting!

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

9:15 Meet, Greet and get acquainted
9:30 Meeting begins

We will meet in Shea Hall to discuss and brainstorm future CCW projects. Please come and join in on the planning.

SUNDAY MORNINGS COFFEE, PASTRIES, AND FELLOWSHIP

Each Sunday after the 9:00 AM Mass, the congregation is invited into Shea Hall for Coffee, Pastries, and Fellowship. Our parishioners and visitors have really been enjoying this ministry!

YOUR help is needed to supply the pastries each week and to keep this ministry active. If you are enjoying this ministry and would be able to help out supplying pastries, **please sign up** on the clipboard hanging in the kitchen area in Shea Hall.

Please contact Donna Czerniewski with your questions or for more information: (847-668-4074).

