

MARCH 30, 2025 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

PASTORRev. Antonio Giraldo	GARDENS & GROUNDSIlene Rainwater
DEACONDeacon Jim Schmall	FACILITIESDavid Girard
OFFICE MANAGERSKatrina Allocco & Lesa Schmall	SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITEJoAnne Romer-Aylward
BOOKKEEPERKathleen Halligan	PASTORAL CARESuzie Fay
LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTORJoAnne Romer-Aylward	ST. CLARE GIFT SHOPCamilla Sorrell
DIR. OF RELIGIOUS ED.Julie Dew	COLUMBARIUMBob Eberhardt
RCIA/OCIADc. Jim Schmall	WELCOMING, EVENTS &All Parishioners
ART & ENVIRONMENTNorene 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.

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 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	3/31	8:30 AM	
Tue	4/1	8:30 AM	
Wed	4/2	NO MORNING MASS	
Thu	4/3	8:30 AM	
Fri	4/4	8:30 AM	Juan Chavez Reyez
Sat	4/5	4:00 PM	Dăng Thi (tee) Sinh (see)
Sun	4/6	9:00 AM	Dăng Thi (tee) Sinh (see)

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, Doreen Mancuso, Naomi Nwadike, David Holmes, Amy Frink, Myra Montera, Claire Cheadle, Elise Martin, Paul Fain, Joyce Fain, Charles Tippitt, Emmanuel Nwadike, Kay Walker, Julie Schirack, Deb Koehler, Laken DuRussel, Marcus Bolte, Johnny Mallory, Louann Felske, Stephanie Romer, John & Maria Bermudes, Michael Slater, Rocky Brach, Dennis Richards, Jeff Herzog, Marion McCaughey, Sue Wood, George Murr, Sue Corsini

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: During the Lenten season, we change our sanctuary floral decorations from fresh cut flowers to dried floral arrangements to reflect the dry period of Jesus' 40 days in the desert.



If, after the Lenten season you would like to donate to the altar flowers fund in memory of or in honor of someone, contact the Parish Office via phone or email. The cost is \$40.00 for 1 week. Thank You!



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	3/31	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	4/1	4:00 PM	RCIA - PRC
Wed	4/2	5:00 PM	SVdP - PRC
Thu	4/3		
Fri	4/4	9:00 AM	Adoration
		NOON	Benediction & Closing
		5:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
Sat	4/5	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	4/6	9:00 AM	Mass
		10:30 AM	The Chosen - PRC Bible Study



A TRULY CHRISTIAN CONVERSION MUST BE INSPIRED BY FAITH IN JESUS

The sequence of today's Liturgy of the Word begins with the Lord's promise to the chosen people of Israel through Joshua, the promise that "the reproach of Egypt" has been removed. No longer will Israel need to eat manna; rather, they will now be able to celebrate their feasts and eat food they have grown themselves. What had long been their experience, yielded to a gracious gift of God to usher in a new age of forgiveness and plenty. The Lord's goodness was to be seen – and tasted.

Paul echoes this same message to the people of Corinth, reminding them that Jesus Christ ushered in a new order for creation, one founded in mercy and reconciliation. This does not give us license to ignore or erase our past sins; it gives us joy in recognizing that we are no match for God's forgiveness. In Christ Jesus, we are to behold – and to become the new creation that his death and resurrection effected. We are to accept the reconciliation offered us by God – and we are to become a reconciling people for all the world.

Most of us are familiar with the story of the Prodigal Son in today's gospel from Luke: a young boy whose life was misdirected by love of riches and pleasure. After his so-called friends abandoned him and he suffered hunger and want for a period of time, he came to his senses and returned to his father. He returned a changed person. Fortunately, he had a loving and forgiving father who accepted him unconditionally. The point of the story is abundantly clear when we consider the relationship between the father and the younger son.

As regards the relationship between the father and the oldest son, Jesus leaves the conclusion open-ended. We have to reflect on what might have happened, whether the older son gave in to his father's pleading to be forgiving or whether he refused. How we end the story will tell us a lot about ourselves.

We hear a lot about conversions in our time. Some conversions last a few days or weeks, others are for a lifetime. In the story of the Prodigal Son, Jesus himself shows us what authentic conversion involves. Conversion is an active choice ("I will return to my father...") which is conscious and aware ("Coming to his senses...") and expressed in action ("With that he set off..."). An authentic conversion to Christ is radical: It goes to the roots of our attitudes and values, and is, in fact, an act of emancipation from every human culture or value system ("I will break away..."). It can be, however, a gradual process ("He set off..." and "While he was still a long way off...").

Christian conversion is expressed in confession of sin ("Father I have sinned..."). But to be truly Christian, it must be a conversion, not just to good human behavior, but to a whole new level of life: the divine life of grace ("He was dead and has come back to life...").

An explicitly Christian conversion must in some way be motivated by the event of CHRIST'S COMING TO THE WORLD. This is suggested in the parable by the words, "he was lost and is found." In the story, the Prodigal was not found; he just came home. But in reality every sinner is sought out and brought to God by Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Likewise, a truly Christian conversion must be inspired by faith in Jesus. Only through Baptism in Jesus we can legitimately refer to God as our Father.

Lent is a good time for us to ask about conversion – not only because the season is an invitation to "repentance," that is, to a "change of heart," but also because during Lent the Church gives special attention to those preparing for Baptism. It is a time for all of us to reflect on the conversion which our own Baptism expressed, and to ask if we are still expressing it in action as a conscious, radical choice to live on the level of God in response to the coming of Jesus Christ into our lives.



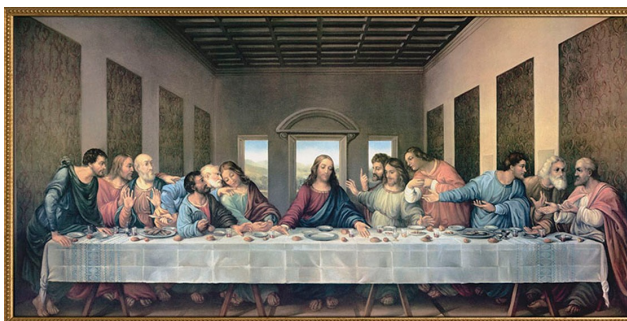
CATECHISM



BY: *Ilene Rainwater*

CHRIST AND THE APOSTLES

The interpretation of the Last Supper has been painted in many ways by many painters. The common consensus as to the overall significance are listed as: the establishment of communion, the foretelling of Christ's sacrifice, fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies, and connecting Passover to His sacrifice. Da Vinci chose his focus to be on Christ, even though there is much to be contemplated in his portrayal of the Apostles' reactions. He accomplishes this in various ways; Jesus sits against the backdrop of an open window, His head is slightly tilted projecting the right cheek at a "vanishing point," drawing all eyes to the middle of the work. Da Vinci chose not to picture Christ with a halo, but did paint Him wearing the traditional colors of red and blue, signifying both his human and divine natures. And as earlier mentioned, His posture forming a triangle. His downward face leads us to his left arm and hand which seems to be pointing to a piece of bread, the Eucharist. A spiritual significance of this could be that in the trials of life, our focus should be on Christ, present in the Eucharist. Da Vinci also places significance in the right hand of Jesus. But to fully appreciate this the positions of the Apostles should be noted. Immediately to Christ's left are (in groups of 3!) Thomas, James the Greater, and Phillip; then Matthew, Judas Thaddeus and Simon the Zealot. To the right of Jesus are John, Judas Iscariot, and Simon Peter; then Andrew, James the Lesser and Bartholomew. Da Vinci chose to focus not on the Eucharistic concept but on the specific moment of Christ's shocking revelation that someone at the table would betray him. And that right arm and hand? It is extended toward where Judas is seated. Next week: Faces of the Apostles.



FAST from unhealthy habits today.

PRAY for the health of friends and family today who are ill or may not be in the best shape.

GIVE friends and family an example of positive health today by eating well and doing healthy activities with them.

During this week, please reflect on this from Cardinal John Henry Newman:

"If we don't pray in this life, if we don't prepare ourselves by worshipping the Lord, by seeking Him in prayer – we're not preparing our hearts for heaven. If heaven is going to be total union/communion with God's out-pouring of and worship to the Lord; If we don't spend time in this life seeking the Lord; If we don't spend time in union with the Lord in prayer, how will heaven possibly be heaven?"

For the heart, for the soul that dreads hearing the words: Let us pray. Those are the words in heaven. Let us pray, let us worship, let us adore. How will that heart which dreads hearing those words on earth – how will that same kind of heart rejoice when it hears the words "Let us pray" for eternity? We need to let our hearts be changed."



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel the prodigal son repents and finds mercy in the heart of his father. Know that your penance during Lent can give the poor the grace of finding the merciful heart of God the Father. In the month of March, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist local families, providing assistance with food, and utility and rent bills, etc. Thank You!

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 MARCH "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" RICE A RONI AND PASTA SIDES



APRIL 5 & 6 SECOND COLLECTION - MAINTENANCE FUND



Your donations made to this fund will help pay for the rising cost of maintaining our aging buildings and to continue with preventative maintenance. Most recently, we have utilized this fund to begin replacing the deck, stairs, and retaining wall around the PRC. This would not be possible without your generous contributions to the Maintenance Fund! Thank you for your support!

Visitors to our beautiful little church on the Little River frequently ask where their donation would be of the most use. We are very thankful for our visitor's financial contributions, especially during our lean winter months when tourism typically declines. This Maintenance Fund would be a great choice for making your donation!

To contribute to this fund, please place your pre-printed envelope in the **second** collection basket the weekend of April 5th and 6th. If you do not have a pre-printed envelope, you may place cash or check in the **second** collection basket.

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH.

If you choose to mail in your donation, please mark on the envelope or check that it is for the "Maintenance" Fund and send it to:

St. Francis of Assisi Church (Maintenance Fund Contribution)
7717 River Rd. Townsend, TN 37882



“We never know when our last day will come.
We can prepare by receiving our Lord
as if it were our First Communion, our last Communion,
our only Communion.”

- Jeanette Flood
from her book, *Eight Ways of Loving God*



THE DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX SURVEY

The Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey is ongoing. There are only three weeks left to take advantage of this useful resource. This important survey is essential in helping St. Francis of Assisi, Townsend, assess our greatest strengths and opportunities – so that our parish can thrive and deepen our commitment to Christ as missionary disciples! If you're a parishioner, we encourage you to take the DMI survey today! We need your perspective to help strengthen our parish and better prepare us for the future. For the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey link, please visit our parish website at Stfrancistownsend.org and click on the DMI Survey icon on the home page. If you would prefer to fill out a paper copy, There are copies of the survey available in the Narthex. Just fill them out and turn them in to the church office during regular business hours. In Christ, *Deacon Jim*



**KNOXVILLE DIOCESAN COUNCIL
OF CATHOLIC WOMEN**

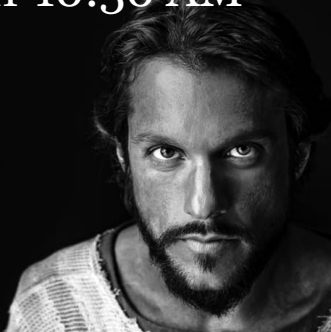
34th BIENNIAL CONVENTION — APRIL 24 - 26, 2025
St. Mary's Catholic Church, Johnson City, TN
For more information and registration, visit us at www.kdcccw.org

2025 CONVENTION SPEAKERS

Dr. Anne DeSantis	Evelyn Garcia	Michele Marquis
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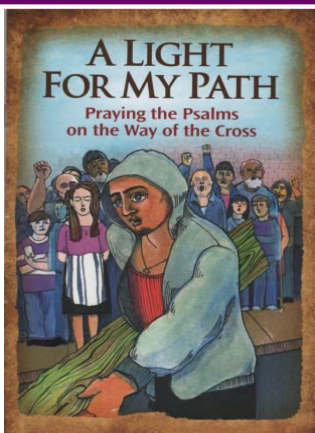


SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



**The
CHOSEN**
SEASON ONE

**BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION
PARISH RESOURCE CENTER**



Friday, April 4

During this Lenten Season, offer yourself the opportunity to meditate on the Stations of the Cross in a different way. You are invited to gather and reflect on Jesus' Way of the Cross by using the same prayers he used in his life: the Book of Psalms. The prayer service will journey through the traditional fourteen Stations of the Cross while providing time for personal reflection, sharing of scripture and prayer, and the communal singing of the psalms.

5:00 PM
Stations of the Cross
Led by Our Music Ministry Team

My spirit is faint, my heart despairs, I stretch out my hands to you.

-Based on Psalm 143:4, 6a

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION - 4/4/25



*"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 AM
(in Shea Hall)
Benediction: Noon

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

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

**Pope St. John Paul II
(1920 - 2005)**

*"The Eucharist
is the secret of my day.
It gives strength and meaning
to all my activities of service
to the Church and to the whole world.
Let Jesus
present in the Blessed Sacrament
speak to your hearts.
It is he who is the true answer of life
that you seek.
He stays here with us:
He is God with us.
Seek him without tiring;
welcome him without reserve;
love him without interruption:
today, tomorrow, forever!"*



Eucharisticreviv-



HEALING MINISTRY AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

Our healing ministry here at St. Francis of Assisi complements our First Friday of the Month Mass and Adoration.

The healing service is offered concurrently with adoration. Healing ministers are available in Shea Hall and the sacristy while Adoration is available in the church. When you would like Healing Prayers after the 1st Friday Mass, please come into Shea Hall and a prayer minister will pray for you individually in the Sacristy.

Our Healing Ministry is made up of lay ministers who have been trained to pray for your needs and healing. During our time with you, you will be advised that this is NOT a Sacrament (such as Anointing of the Sick). You will be asked for permission to lay hands on your shoulders while being prayed for and you will be offered Holy Water to use for blessing yourself and then faithfully receive our healing prayers. Healing prayers will be for emotional, physical and/or spiritual healing.

If you would like to be trained to be a part of the healing team, 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
1/19-4/13/2025	GriefShare Weekly grief support group Highland Manor Inn - Townsend, TN	Online: GriefShare.org/findagroup E-mail: plsteele68@yahoo.com Phone: (text) 865-306-1956
4/4/2025	Men's Silent Retreat (4/4 - 4/6) Christ Prince of Peace Retreat Ctr. Benton, TN	Online: See poster in Shea Hall; Scan QR Code Online: dioknoxretreat.org; regnumchristi.com Online: CatholicDads.org
4/8/2025	WES Team (WEST) Meeting Noon - Shea Hall	Online: N/A E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: Church Office: 865-448-6070
4/20/2025	2 Easter Sunday Masses This Year: 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM	Online: www.stfrancistownsend.org E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: Church Office: 865-448-6070
4/24-26/2025	Knoxville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Biennial Convention St. Mary's Church - Johnson City, TN	Online: www.kdccw.org AND See poster in Shea Hall Phone: 407-252-0320 (Karen Agnello) OR: Phone: 901-485-1965 (Amy Schaefer)
5/4/2025	Cinco de Mayo Potluck (on SUNDAY) Shea Hall 4-7 PM	Online: Poster and Sign-up Sheets Coming Soon E-mail: N/A Phone: N/A
9/20-10/9/2025	11-Day Jubilee Pilgrimage to the Shrines of Italy with Fr. Bill McNeeley	Online: Scan QR code on poster in Shea Hall E-mail: ascensiontourstravel@gmail.com Phone: 800-351-9893

 	Holy Thursday	April 17 th	Mass of the Lord's Supper	7:00 PM	 
	Good Friday	April 18 th	Stations of the Cross	3:00 PM	
	Good Friday	April 18 th	Good Friday Service	7:00 PM	
	Holy Saturday	April 19 th	Easter Vigil Service	8:15 PM	
	Easter Sunday	April 20 th	Easter Sunday Mass	9:00 AM	
	Easter Sunday	April 20 th	Easter Sunday Mass	11:30 AM	

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS!



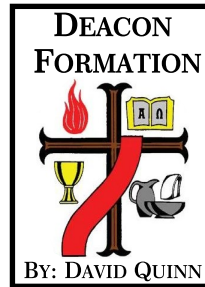
A few weeks ago work was begun on replacing the deteriorating wooden ramp that borders the Columbarium. The old ramp has been removed and work has begun on installing a new composite decking ramp that will border

the Parish Resource Center on the East side. Once completed, new stairs will be installed from the porch, providing an additional access point for the Columbarium. Additionally, we will be widening the turn area into the parking lot.

Have you noticed?!? The wooden deck that overlooks the Little River has been replaced with the same composite decking material that will be used on the PRC ramp.

Any and all donations to this project to help offset the cost will be greatly appreciated. Simply deposit your contribution in the regular weekly collection and note **'Directed Giving'** on the memo line of your check, or deliver your check to the Parish Office. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to either Dave Girard or Bob Eberhardt. Thank you in advance for helping with this project!

BECOMING A DEACON



I deeply appreciate the interest and support everyone has shown me as I go through the Deacon Formation program. I know people are curious as to what happens with this program so I thought I would give some insight occasionally on what is involved in the program.

The formation program boils down to one word – discernment. Participants are figuring out if becoming a deacon is right for them while the diocese figures out if each participant is a good fit for being a deacon. Ideally, at the end of five and a half years, both the participants and the diocese commit to each other and we are ordained as permanent deacons.

To help with our discernment, the program initially focuses on spirituality, asking the Holy Spirit to point us in the direction where we can best serve the Lord and His Church. That direction may or may not be as part of the diaconate.

Please pray for me and all the other participants remaining in the formation program to find the direction the Lord wants them to follow.

KNOXVILLE DIOCESE COUNSEL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN GOLDEN ROSE AWARD



The Knoxville Diocese Counsel of Catholic Women has established an award to recognize outstanding young women between the ages of 14 and 21 who exemplify the three tenets in the mission statement of the NCCW and KDCCW of **Leadership, Service and Spirituality**. Each Parish may submit one young lady to the Deanery, the Deanery chooses a representative to the Diocese, and this young woman will represent our Diocese at the National Convention. Our Grace Rapien was one of four selected for our Smoky Mountain Deanery. Although not selected as the Deanery Representative, Grace was a strong competitor. Each young lady received a Certificate honoring them, a "Mary" bracelet, a Membership to NCCW, a special "personalized" gift, and a Yellow Rose. Grace also received a gift of \$150.00 from our St. Francis CCW for the wonderful example she presents to all young women. Congratulations, Grace!



Image by pngtree.com

TWO MASSES ON EASTER SUNDAY THIS YEAR: **9:00 AM AND 11:30 AM**

A second Mass will be added on Easter Sunday this year (April 20, 2025) in an effort to alleviate the overcrowded conditions that occur at the 9:00 AM Easter Sunday Mass. If you are currently an active Liturgical Minister and would be willing to volunteer for your ministry on Easter Sunday at the 11:30 Mass, please contact JoAnne Romer-Aylward: joannera.726@gmail.com; 859-361-4561.

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. If you are enjoying this ministry but are unable to help out supplying pastries, perhaps you would be able to help out by supporting this ministry financially. Contributions may be placed in the small collection box on the counter in Shea Hall on Sunday mornings or may be directed to the church office. If you choose to write a check, please make sure that "Sunday Fellowship" is clearly marked in the memo area so that it is recorded accurately. All monies collected will go toward future purchases of coffee, creamer, sweetener, paper products, and plastic utensils. Please contact Donna Czerniewski with your questions or for more information: (847-668-4074).



WELCOMING EVENTS & SOCIAL TEAM MEETING

Tuesday, April 8, 2025
NOON in Shea Hall

If you are a member of this parish, you are automatically a member of this team! 😊
Please come and join in the Spring and Summer planning activities for our parish! Please come and join with your parish family in the planning activities. A light lunch will be served.



Occasionally, we run out of paper bulletins after our weekend Masses. If we have run out of bulletins, you can always request a paper bulletin from the church office or access our bulletins online at our website

www.stfrancistownsend.org

Simply click on the "Bulletin" icon/button on our website's home page and then select the week you wish to view. Additionally, you may choose to receive the weekly bulletin as an e-mail attachment simply by sending an e-mail with "E-Bulletin" in the subject line to: **SFABulletin7717@gmail.com**.