



APRIL 27, 2025 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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 MANAGERS	Katrina Allocco & Lesa Schmall	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	Dc. Jim Schmall	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.

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	4/28	8:30 AM	Ruben Fraire
Tue	4/29	8:30 AM	Brian Barker
Wed	4/30	NO MORNING MASS	
Thu	5/1	8:30 AM	Patricia Radant
Fri	5/2	8:30 AM	Joe & Mary Petroskey
Sat	5/3	4:00 PM	Evelyn Provenzo
Sun	5/4	9:00 AM	Mary Sellers

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):

Pat Sanders, Doreen Mancuso, Naomi Nwadike, David Holmes, Amy Frink, Myra Montero, Claire Cheadle, Elise Martin, Paul Fain, Joyce Fain, Charles Tippitt, Emmanuel Nwadike, Kay Walker, Julie Schirack, Laken DuRussel, Marcus Bolte, Louann Felske, Stephanie Romer, John & Maria Bermudes, Michael Slater, Rocky Brach, Dennis Richards, Jeff Herzog, Marion McCaughey, Sue Wood, Sue Corsini, Adela Mauer, Bill Irby

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: If 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!



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.



**REMAINING SESSIONS:
MAY 4, 25 AND JUNE 2
(SUNDAYS) AT 10:30 AM**

**The
CHOSEN
SEASON ONE**



**BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION
PARISH RESOURCE CENTER**

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	4/28	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	4/29		
Wed	4/30	5:00 PM	SVdP - PRC
Thu	5/1		
Fri	5/2	9:00 AM	Adoration
Sat	5/3	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	5/4	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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



THE OCTAVE OF EASTER AND DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

The second Sunday of Easter is also referred to as the Octave of Easter, meaning that Easter is not just one day, but a string of eight days all tied together. Easter is such a great Feast that it is celebrated during the entire week that goes from Easter Sunday to the very next Sunday.

The readings for this Sunday are always about mercy, trust, and forgiveness of sins. "Doubting Thomas" is an important figure for us as we seek to deepen our faith. This gospel passage is proclaimed on the second Sunday of Easter as an example of

God's great love and mercy for us and helps to clarify to future believers any doubt about the resurrection.

Thomas was not present when Jesus appeared to some of the disciples. He gains his nickname "Doubting Thomas" when he doubts his friend's encounter with the risen Lord and says, "Unless I see the marks of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

When Jesus appears again to the disciples and Thomas was with them, Jesus invites him to put his finger into Jesus' hand and his hand into his side and told Thomas to believe once again in the greatness of God. In a moment of awe, Thomas responds, "My Lord and my God."

Today's gospel gives a bit of relief when we find it challenging to believe. Even the people who were there had a hard time trusting what they saw and struggled to maintain faith. The important thing is not to lean too heavily on those doubts, because the life and peace that comes through Jesus is too essential. Jesus wants a relationship with each one of us. We just need to believe.

The Octave Sunday of Easter has been recently called Mercy Sunday or the Feast of Divine Mercy. It is a new feast proclaimed by John Paul II, in the year 2000, during the canonization of Sr. Faustina, whom Jesus himself revealed asking for this feast to be celebrated on this particular Sunday following Easter Sunday. The Holy Father perceived a deep connection between the "The Easter Mystery of the Redemption – the suffering, death, and resurrection of the Lord – and this Feast of Divine Mercy." This feast, the pope said, "adds so much more meaning to the Easter celebration."

The whole celebration is about God's love and mercy for us through his only begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ. It's no coincidence Pope John Paul II died on April 2, 2005, The Vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday. Nor is it coincidence, our beloved Pope Francis, whose papacy personified Mercy itself, receives farewell on the Vigil of Divine Mercy.

Like Thomas, we have the witness of the believing community: a more than two-thousand-year-old testimony of the people of God who continue to say, "We have seen the Lord." The truth has not changed, and the promise of a personal encounter with Jesus remains as real as it did on the First Easter Sunday. We can have a personal encounter with Jesus every time we participate in the Eucharist through the Liturgy of the Word and, in a very special way, through the breaking of bread.



CATECHISM

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BY: Julie Dew

Welcome to the weekend after our beautiful celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I certainly hope you enjoyed all the information in the Corner this past Lent with Leonardo's fresco of the Last Supper. As I have stated before, Michael and I had the opportunity to view this in Milan, Italy. There are no words to express my reaction. It's just overwhelming! My jaw hit the floor! The beauty, the distinctiveness, the history of the artist! And this magnificent piece of art is in what we would call a dining hall! Thank you so very much, Ilene Rainwater, for enlightening us with your research and knowledge of this well-known artwork. I truly appreciate the time that you put in and graciously shared with us during all of Lent!

This weekend, we always celebrate the Divine Mercy according to the calendar of the Church. Mercy is the deepest form of love, and the God who is love would be supremely the merciful one. In some ways God's mercy is even more powerful than his creative power, for, St. Thomas Aquinas tells us in his *Summa Theologiae*, the reconciliation of a sinner is a greater thing than the creation of the universe.

The actual designation of the Octave Day of Easter being Divine Mercy Sunday is the result of a request made by our Lord to Saint Faustina Kowalska, a Polish sister, in the first half of the 20th century in the twenties and thirties, to ask the Church, the Holy Father, to establish that Sunday, the Octave of Easter, as the Feast of Divine Mercy. So, on April 30, 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized Maria Faustina Kowalska and declared the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. To me that is **TOTALLY** amazing!

Think about this: In his treatment of the sacrament of penance, St. Thomas describes and examines the Church's ancient rite of public penance and the public reconciliation of penitents. This is a rite long fallen into disuse, but its basic logic and spiritual essence can still be perceived in the contours of contemporary liturgical practice. The rite of solemn, public penance began on Ash Wednesday. Public sinners who had approached the bishop for pardon were dressed in sackcloth and doused with ashes and "expelled" from the church. They attended all the daily observances of Lent, but from the porch or vestibule of the church, not inside like the ordinary faithful. There they would ask for the prayers of the faithful. On Holy Thursday, the penitents were received back into the church nave and were given absolution by the bishop. From then on, they participated in the solemn worship of Holy Week and Easter with everyone else.

But here comes the interesting detail: the catechumens of course received Holy Communion at the Mass of the Easter Vigil and then attended for the whole Easter octave dressed in their white baptismal robes.

Continued on next page.....



*Angela, Jeff, Summer,
Jacob, Terry and Carolyn*

*Congratulations and
Welcome Home!*



But the penitents had to wait for the octave of Easter (now Divine Mercy Sunday) before they were admitted to Holy Communion. This Sunday was par excellence, the day of the full reconciliation of sinners! YUP, uh-huh – don't complain about how we celebrate the Sacrament of Confession now!!!

Now just consider that their waiting after their readmission corresponded exactly to the days of our Divine Mercy novena, that is, from Good Friday on.... until today's feast. It would almost seem that Our Lord had arranged the novena a feast of his mercy to reestablish spiritually this ancient period of reconciliation and Eucharistic grace. But now it is for all the faithful who are penitents.

So let us never doubt the depths of today's great feast of the Divine Mercy, whatever any liturgical expert or theology student thinks. And note also, that a careful search in St. Thomas Aquinas always yields very edifying insights for those who have the patience to persevere.



DIOCESAN JOB OPENING

The Diocese of Knoxville Chancery Office is searching for an Administrative Assistant to the Office of Christian Formation and the Diocesan. Please see the diocesan website at <https://dioknox.org/> employment for a specific job description. Send cover letter and resume to Maura Lentz at mlentz@dioknox.org.



“ I think we too are the people who, on the one hand, want to listen to Jesus, but on the other hand, at times, like to find a stick to beat others with, to condemn others. And Jesus has this message for us: **MERCY**. I think - and I say it with humility - that this is the Lord's most powerful message: **MERCY**. ”

- Pope Francis
Homily on March 17, 2013

Quatro

Cinco De Mayo PotLuck

We're partying a day early!

May 4, 2025

4:00 - 7:00 PM

Shea Hall

See the poster in Shea Hall for details and sign-up!



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today, Jesus stands in the midst of us and says: "Peace be with you!" Indeed, the mercy of God centers our heart in peace.

In the month of April, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to help the poor celebrate the peace of Easter, by assisting many local families in providing them with food and monetary assistance for utility and rent bills. 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 APRIL "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY



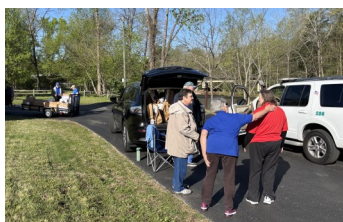
HAPPY EASTER !

St. Vincent de Paul held an Easter Meal Distribution on Wednesday April 16th. A complete Meal with hams ranging from 3-5 lbs. was distributed to those unable to have an Easter meal on their tables. 90 complete Easter Meals were given out to:

- 12 Senior Families from the Blount County Senior Outreach Program
- 31 Foster Families
- 43 Neighbors In Need Families (4 families received 2 baskets due to the size of their family).

Thank You parishioners, IGA staff and patrons for helping SVDP provide the needy in our community with a full meal for their Easter celebration!

If you are interested in helping the St. Vincent de Paul Society, to further help those in need, we have a "SVDP Poor Box" to the right of the main church doors (over the Holy Water). St. Vincent de Paul Church envelopes and extra cash donations are always appreciated!



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION - 5/2/25



*"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



Tanner Kalina - (1991 -)

*"Time [spent] with someone
is a real gift.
When we spend time with Jesus
in Eucharistic Adoration
we give Him a real gift.
Every time we go
to Eucharistic Adoration,
we act like Mary.
We sit at Christ's feet
and give Him the
invaluable gift of our time.
Our gift of time in adoration
is never wasted,
and our honoring of Jesus
is never without fruit."*

*Paraphrased excerpts
from Revival
A Lenten Devotional
for Eucharistic Renewal*



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)*



IT'S VIDALIA ONION TIME!

The One Heart Colombia Mission Team is taking orders for Vidalia onions! Please reserve your bag(s) of onions by signing up on the sign-up sheet in Shea Hall. The onions will be delivered to St. Francis of Assisi Church in May.

10 LB. BAG FOR \$10

YOUR ORDER HELPS AND SUPPORTS THE



MISSION GROUP

DEACON FORMATION



BY: DAVID QUINN

BECOMING A DEACON – INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS

Before an athlete or performer gets ready for a major event, they practice. They may go through many of the activities they will do during the event but it doesn't count yet. When the Diocese starts a new Deacon Formation class, they kind of start with some practice. At the end of 2021, the diocese announced they were forming a new cohort for people interested in becoming deacons. They were going to host a series of informational sessions to let men know what was involved in the process. They even invited deacon candidates who were going to be ordained in 2022 to share some of their experiences. However, they also added some discussions and exercises on spirituality to each of these information sessions. We

learned the Examen Prayer and how the Holy Spirit might be calling us to formation. They even gave us some homework assignments. It really was a little taste of what we were going to be doing if we joined the formation program.



APRIL 27, 2025 - DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

St. Faustina recorded in her diary these words she heard Jesus speak to her: "I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet." —St. Faustina's *Diary* 699

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
5/4/2025	Cinco de Mayo Potluck (on SUNDAY) Shea Hall 4-7 PM	Online: Sign-up Sheets in Shea Hall E-mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070
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

Jorge Mario Bergoglio

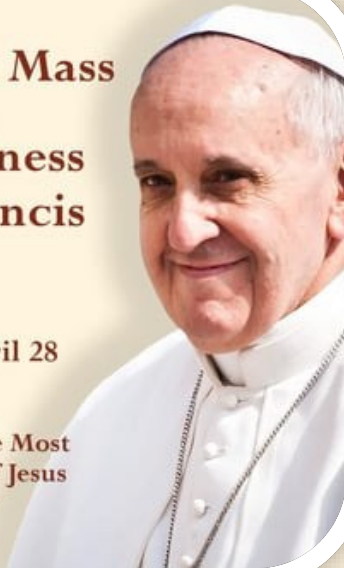
December 17, 1936 - April 21, 2025

265th Successor to St. Peter

Memorial Mass for His Holiness Pope Francis

**Monday, April 28
6 p.m.**

**Cathedral of the Most
Sacred Heart of Jesus
Knoxville**



Bishop Beckman will celebrate a memorial Mass for Pope Francis at the Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on Monday, April 28 at 6 p.m.

All are invited to the Cathedral to come and pray for the repose of the soul of the late pontiff. The Mass will also be live-streamed on the cathedral's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@shcathedral>.

If you would like to read and learn more about Pope Francis, the USCCB website is a great starting point: <https://www.usccb.org/popes/pope-francis>
<https://www.usccb.org/pope-francis-resources-memorial>

9-Day Novena (4/26/25—5/4/25):

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/novena-pope-francis-ENG.pdf>

Vatican Website (multiple languages available):

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en.html>

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war! With war everything is lost." Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

Amen.

Easter Flowers

This year's Easter Flowers have been donated by several parishioners in memory or honor of someone they know.

In Memory of

Mary Hopman	Ding Thi Sinh	Frank & Betty Czerniewski
Joseph & Betty Tkatch	John Jackson	Kathleen Denning
Katherine Kirkham	Ralph & Irene Meyerkord	Jesse & Gloria Colvin
Ted & Violet Jastrab	John & Theresa Peacock	Mario & Natalie Bummara
Joseph & Marlena Rytel	Tom & Rita Gaudern	Walter & Sue Fallat
Barry Rytel	Cam King	Jack Troupe
Normand & Therese Messier	Edward Murphy	Virginia Ann Welsh
Anne McTavish	Larene Anderson	Philip Peychal
Bill & Mollie Corsini	Earl & Catherine Miller	Rita & Ray Polak
Ralph & Herma Peychal	Norman & Lucille Weiland	Marion Ganley
Lois Zehnder	George Szekely	Edward Szekely
Lois & Elmer Szekely	Doug DuRussel	Mary Hopman
The Reddan Family	The Polak Family	
Friends & Relatives and those who gave their lives in service to others		

In Honor of

Fr. Antonio Giraldo
Fr. Tony Mulderry
Fr. Eric Zeeger
Dc. Jim Schmall
Claire Martin
Norene O'Donnell
John & Yvonne Peychal
The Harbit Family
The Davis Family
Jacob Simons
Brock Simons
Bryton Simons
The Bruno Family
The Kirkpatrick Family

