



## APRIL 6, 2025 FIFTH 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

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

### 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](mailto: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 4/7** 8:30 AM Elias, Genoveva, & Graciela Ventura  
**Tue 4/8** 8:30 AM Celerino Mondragon Ortiz  
**Wed 4/9** **NO MORNING MASS**  
**Thu 4/10** 8:30 AM All Souls in Purgatory  
**Fri 4/11** 8:30 AM Juan Chavez Reyez  
**Sat 4/12** 4:00 PM Raymond Nieman, Bernard Eberhardt,  
Emmett Eberhardt  
**Sun 4/13** 9:00 AM Brian Barker

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, 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!

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

**Mon 4/7** 9:00 AM Church & Hall Cleaning  
**Tue 4/8** Noon WEST Mtg. - Shea Hall  
4:00 PM RCIA - PRC  
**Wed 4/9**  
**Thu 4/10**  
**Fri 4/11** 5:00 PM Stations of the Cross  
**Sat 4/12** 4:00 PM Vigil Mass  
**Sun 4/13** 9:00 AM Mass  
10:30 AM The Chosen - PRC Bible Study



Our RCIA classes meet on Tuesdays in the Parish Resource Center (PRC) at 4:00 PM. 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 on Tuesdays at 4:00 PM!

All are welcome - even if you haven't been with us since the first session! Bring your Bible and a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Questions? Please contact Deacon Jim: sfadeacon7717@gmail.com OR 901-493-2123.

## THROWING STONES



After Jesus died, Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate to request the body of Jesus. Pilate asked Joseph where he was going to bury Jesus. Joseph replied to Pilate; I have prepared my own tomb for Him. Why would you give up your own tomb for such a criminal asked Pilate? To which Joseph of Arimathea replied, oh I'm not worried, I'll get it back in three days!

There is a lot of stone throwing going on in the Bible. Especially in this 8th chapter of John. No sooner does Jesus convince this crowd to lay down their stones and let the woman caught in adultery go do we read about a different crowd picking up stones and throwing them at Jesus Himself! You might call this chapter the Chapter of Stones.

In the Gospel of John, the individuals who throw stones remain anonymous. However, in the Acts of the Apostles, it is documented that, a few years after the Resurrection, a crowd assembles around the deacon Stephen. According to St. Luke, the crowd successfully stones Stephen to death, and it is noted that the stone-throwers place their cloaks at the feet of the future St. Paul. This illustrates how swiftly a crowd can transform into judge, jury, and executioners, highlighting the ease with which individuals can be engulfed by righteous anger and the severe consequences that ensue when people take the law into their own hands.

St. John's "Chapter of Stones" might make us think of the "terror" of stones, but let's consider a different type of stone. In ancient times, large stones were used to seal tombs. After Jesus was taken down from the cross, Joseph of Arimathea placed Him in a rock-hewn tomb and sealed it with a large stone. Do you know what else was sealed in that tomb? All of our Sins. The sins of the Prodigal Son. The sins of the Woman Caught in Adultery. Your sins, and mine.

I encourage you to consider going to confession before Easter. Allow the significance of the Resurrection to alleviate any burdens you may be carrying. It is essential not to take the law or matters into our own hands. We have a compassionate Savior who is neither a jury nor an executioner. Let us allow Him the opportunity to serve as a merciful judge, posing the question, "Is there no one left to condemn you? Then neither do I condemn you."

With two weeks remaining until Easter, where Christ will rise from the tomb, let us commit to again, going to confession. This gesture is an excellent way to embrace the Resurrection on Easter Sunday and to resolve the challenges in our lives. Let us provide the Lord with the opportunity to ease the weight at the entrance of our hearts.

"Let the one among you  
who is without sin  
be the first to throw a stone."



## CATECHISM

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BY: *Jlene Rainwater*

## CHRIST AND THE APOSTLES (PART TWO)

Welcome to (hopefully, finally) Spring in East Tennessee! This will be the final reflection on DaVinci's Last Supper centering on how he chose to portray each apostle with facial and body positions. There are however two other seemingly insignificant items that scholars debate the possible reason or purpose for DaVinci including them. There is a spilled salt container near Judas' elbow, spilled salt symbolizing bad luck, loss, religion, or possibly Jesus as salt of the earth. Another speculation is the type of fish being served. Is it herring or eel? Eel in Italian has a similar word that means "to indoctrinate." The Northern Italian word for Herring is "renga" which also describes someone who denies religion. Umm..... would this fit the prediction that Peter would deny knowing Jesus?

Back to the Apostles. DaVinci focused on two factors: Christ being the central focus, both spiritually and artistically and the apostles' reactions to Christ's shocking revelation that one of them would betray him. As they reclined at table and were eating, Jesus said, "Amen I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." They began to be distressed and to say to him one by one, "Sure it is not I?" (Mark 14:18-19). "The disciples looked at one another at a loss to whom he meant". (John 13:22). The focus on Christ is clear. Centered in the middle of the table, Christ's right cheek is turned slightly to the side revealing His serene expression and then the viewer's gaze leads to His right arm and hand which appears to be extended toward Judas. Also note that Judas' face is almost completely hidden and in shadow. St. John (the beloved apostle) is to Jesus' right, leaning toward St. Peter and questioning him as to whom Jesus meant would betray him. St. Peter (between John and Judas) is seen as holding a knife. Does this foreshadow what Peter would do after the meal ended and when Jesus is arrested at the Garden of Gethsemane when Peter draws his blade and cuts off the ear of the high priest's servant? Judas the Iscariot seems to be reaching for the same small vessel as Jesus, who said "he who dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me." (Matthew 26:23). Judas is also holding a bag of money, probably a reference to the 30 pieces of silver he paid for his betrayal and close to his hand is that small cup of salt which it appears he is knocking over indicating possible bad luck. St. Thomas, whose head is to the immediate left of Jesus, has his finger raised to the sky as if questioning how the Lord's revelation of his betrayal could be possible. And could this also be an indication as to his doubtfulness of Christ's resurrection? St. Phillip, third from the left, seems to be imploring Jesus for an explanation. Could he have been the one in Scripture to implore "Surely it is not I?" (Mark 14:19). And as for the other 7 Apostles? Da Vinci had his own interpretation but what do you see and what would you surmise the conversation and reaction would be? Oh, to have been a fly on the wall!

As we look at this rendition of The Last Supper, we can only imagine what really happened and the reactions of all present. However, given the depth of thought that Leonardo placed into all his work, we can be sure of one thing: everything we see was done on purpose. Leonardo Da Vinci was truly a man of many diverse talents and skills.



**FAST** from certain activities or habits that consume your time or energy.

**PRAY** the Rosary today.

**GIVE** to a local charity or soup kitchen. (Hint, hint how about our St. Vincent dePaul Society's food bank?)





## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

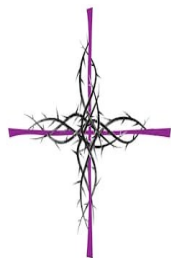
In today's Gospel, Jesus is the model of compassion and kindness. He shows us how to be merciful and nonjudgmental. When we give to the poor, God indeed pours his love, peace and mercy into our hearts and into the hearts of those suffering in poverty.

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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
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



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS - FRIDAY 4/11/2025 - 5:00 PM

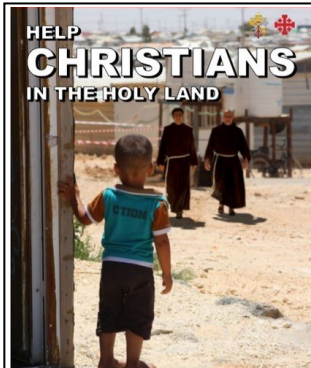
FACILITATED BY OUR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MINISTRY  
MEATLESS LENTEN SUPPER TO FOLLOW

Praying the stations of the cross - especially on Lenten Fridays - is a beautiful, spiritual experience and a wonderful way to enhance your Lenten journey. Please plan on joining your parish family in this beloved tradition. For more information please see the Lenten schedule on the website, and on the bulletin boards in Shea Hall.

Our St. Vincent de Paul Group and our local IGA are teaming up on the 11th to offer a good ol' fashioned Fish Fry immediately following the Stations of the Cross. Come and enjoy!



HELP  
**CHRISTIANS**  
IN THE HOLY LAND



## PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY (4-18-25) COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND

A second collection will be taken up on Good Friday, April 18th, in support of the Pontifical Collection for the Holy Land. This collection, in the words of Paul VI is "not only for the Holy Places but above all for those pastoral, charitable, educational, and social works which the Church supports in the Holy Land for the welfare of their Christian brethren and of the local communities." Your generosity also assists those such as the Franciscans who have been in the Holy Land since 1209 caring for the poor, protecting the Holy shrines, and keeping the light of Christianity alive. Thank you for your generous contribution to this collection for the Holy Land.



## THE DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX SURVEY

The Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey is ongoing. There are only two 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](http://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**

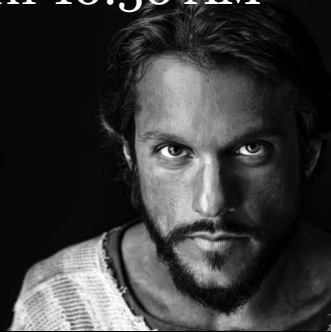
**34th BIENNIAL CONVENTION — APRIL 24 - 26, 2025**  
St. Mary's Catholic Church, Johnson City, TN  
For more information and registration, visit us at [www.kdcccw.org](http://www.kdcccw.org)

**2025 CONVENTION SPEAKERS**

Dr. Anne DeSantis    Evelyn Garcia    Michele Marquis

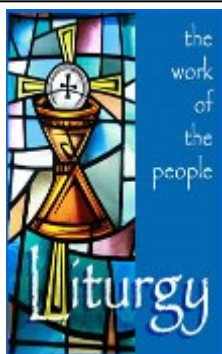


**SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM**



**The  
CHOSEN**  
SEASON ONE

**BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION  
PARISH RESOURCE CENTER**



## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES QUARTERLY SIGN-UPS FOR MAY, JUNE AND JULY

It is time for Liturgical Ministries signup! The signup sheets are on the counter in Shea Hall. Please take a few minutes after Mass this weekend and next to sign up for your ministry/ministries.

If you would like more information about our Liturgical Ministries, please check out our website, the bulletin board in Shea Hall or contact one of our ministry heads:

Lectors	Martha Frink	865-556-4684	<a href="mailto:marthafrink00@gmail.com">marthafrink00@gmail.com</a>
EMHC*	Karen Messenger	225-572-9400	<a href="mailto:komessenger@gmail.com">komessenger@gmail.com</a>
Ushers	Paul Czerniewski	847-877-7347	<a href="mailto:paul.czerniewski@gmail.com">paul.czerniewski@gmail.com</a>
Sacristans	Kathy Meyerkord	630-698-5563	<a href="mailto:kmmeyerkord@gmail.com">kmmeyerkord@gmail.com</a>
Altar Servers	Dan Meyerkord	708-846-4144	<a href="mailto:dkam27@sbcglobal.net">dkam27@sbcglobal.net</a>

\* Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion



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.



## 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! A light lunch will be served.

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

**St. Catherine of Siena  
(1347 - 1380)**

*“Stay with me, Lord,  
for it is necessary  
to have You present  
so that I do not forget You.  
You know how easily I  
abandon You.  
Stay with me, Lord,  
for I desire  
to love You ever more,  
and to be  
in Your company always.  
Stay with me, Lord,  
for You are my light,  
and without You  
I am in darkness.”*



Eucharisticrevival.org

“God’s mercy is greater than any mistake  
you can make. God’s mercy will liberate  
you from the worst moments in your past,  
and His mercy is the key to the best  
moments in your future.”

33 DAYS TO  
DIVINE MERCY



“ You either belong  
wholly to the world  
or wholly to God. ”

- St. John Vianney  
Patron Saint of Parish Priests

# 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
4/8/2025	WES Team (WEST) Meeting Noon - Shea Hall	Online: N/A E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: Church Office: 865-448-6070
4/20/2025	<b>2 Easter Sunday Masses This Year: 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM</b>	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.kdcccw.org <b>AND</b> See poster in Shea Hall Phone: 407-252-0320 (Karen Agnello) <b>OR:</b> 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 <sup>th</sup>	Mass of the Lord's Supper	7:00 PM	
	Good Friday	April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Stations of the Cross	3:00 PM	
	Good Friday	April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday Service	7:00 PM	
	Holy Saturday	April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Vigil Service	8:15 PM	
	Easter Sunday	April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Sunday Mass	9:00 AM	
	Easter Sunday	April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Sunday Mass	11:30 AM	