



MAY 11, 2025 FOURTH 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	5/12	8:30 AM	Jack Troupe
Tue	5/13	8:30 AM	Brian Barker
Wed	5/14	NO MORNING MASS	
Thu	5/15	8:30 AM	Elias, Genoveva, & Graciela Ventura
Fri	5/16	8:30 AM	Elizabeth Ann Kirkpatrick
Sat	5/17	4:00 PM	Bob & Debbie Eberhardt
Sun	5/18	9:00 AM	Margaret Meyer

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, 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: *The Sanctuary flowers are in memory of Joe and Mary Petroskey given by Eric and Gail Simons.* 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.



ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	5/12	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	5/13		
Wed	5/14		
Thu	5/15		
Fri	5/16		
Sat	5/17	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	5/18	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass

**ONLY 2 SESSIONS LEFT:
MAY 25 AND JUNE 1
(SUNDAYS) AT 10:30 AM**

**The
CHOSEN**
SEASON ONE



**BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION
PARISH RESOURCE CENTER**



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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



CHRIST, THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Today's readings cover many topics. Traditionally, this Sunday is known as Good Shepherd Sunday because the gospel always comes from John's gospel, chapter 10, where Jesus tells us in various ways that he is the Good Shepherd.

Since there are so many themes, I would just comment on a few ideas. Our gospel today takes us back to before time began, back to when there was only the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. In this part of John's gospel, Jesus identifies himself as the Good Shepherd. In doing so, however, Jesus is identifying himself as God himself. The connection of the Good Shepherd with Jesus' divinity can be found in chapter 34 of the prophet Ezekiel. God did not hold back in condemning the shepherds of Israel, i.e., the kings of Israel, for the sinful and incompetent way they governed God's people. As consequence for this poor leadership, God spoke through Ezekiel when he declared: "I myself will look after and tend my sheep." (Ezek. 34,11). In the image of the Good Shepherd, we see the fulfillment of this prophecy. In case of any doubt as to whether our Shepherd is divine, Jesus makes it clear in the last sentence of today's gospel when he says: "the Father and I are one." The Jewish leaders took offense and wanted to put him to death for blasphemy (saying that he was equal to God). Jesus did not back down on what he had said, but even more strongly, he repeated what he wanted them to accept when he said; "If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." With this authority backing him up, is it any surprise that Jesus expects his sheep to hear his voice and for them to follow him? Not only does he have the right to expect us to listen to him and follow him, but he also has the power to give us eternal life.

The Book of Revelation does not delight in horror, it was simply encouraging God's people not to lose hope, especially those who suffer for being faithful to Christ. In the Book of Revelation John sees God's holy people surrounding God's throne and praising him. They are dressed in white, symbolizing their inner holiness, and they are holding palm branches as a symbol of their sharing in Christ's victory over sin and death. Their sufferings are over, God will protect them, and the Lamb of God will shepherd them and provide for all their needs.

Our First reading from The Acts of the Apostles shows us that following Christ is not always a piece of cake. Paul and Barnabas were struggling with times of success and times of failures, times of peace and times of turmoil, times when others accepted them and times when they were rejected. They never quit; they moved on.

God calls us to keep on struggling to follow him and serve him, and when we fail, to get back and not to give up. This sums up our reflections centered around Jesus as our shepherd, Jesus who always existed, and Jesus who in the course of time, took on our human nature to show us how to live the kind of life that will lead to eternal life with God.



CATECHISM

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BY: David Quinn

CONSOLATION/DESOLATION

Holy Week and Easter can bring us to a very full feeling of spirituality. We feel a closeness and a thankfulness to God that we may not feel at other times of the year. That tremendous feeling of spirituality is frequently referred to "consolation." It is a feeling that we hope stays with us forever or possibly even grows stronger over the coming days. Sadly, the feeling does not usually last for an extended time.

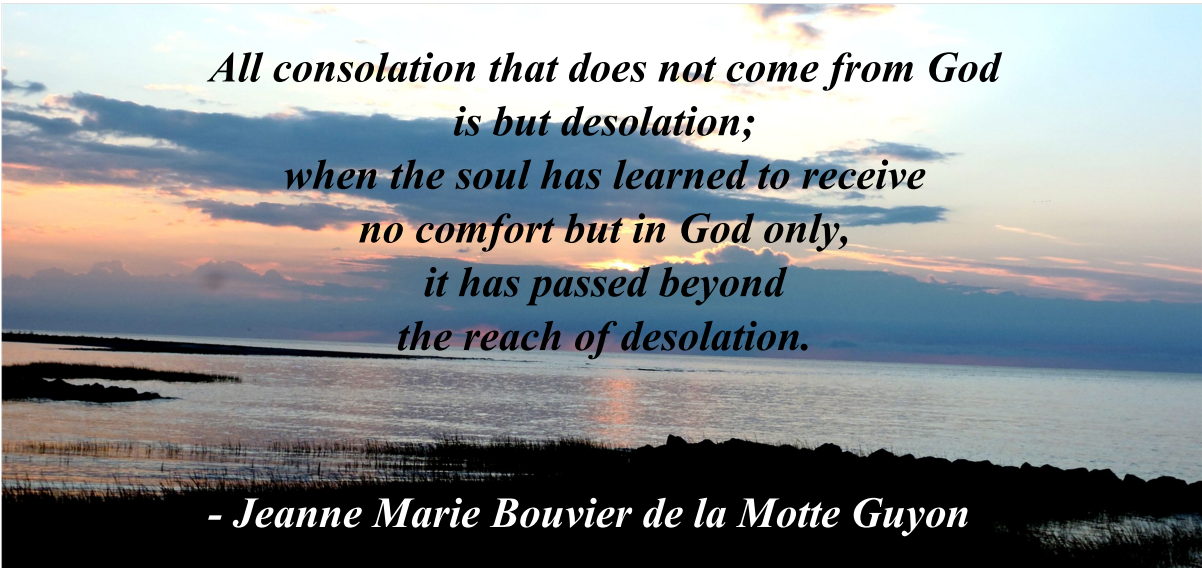
With the distractions of daily living and other activities, we may not realize that we are starting to drift away from that great consolation. After some time, we may start to wonder why that feeling has gone and also wonder if it will ever come back. Knowing that we have that desire to return to that great state of consolation should be comforting but it may not be enough.

In fact, sometimes that state can get even worse. We can start to feel that we will never get back to that state of consolation and possibly stop trying. This is when we've reached a state of "desolation." Desolation can be rough because we may find that some of the things we used to do to feel closer to God are not as meaningful. We may start to feel disconnected from the Church and our parish. We may feel that God no longer cares. We may start listening to those whispers from Satan that it is okay to back off on our spiritual habits.

St. Ignacius addressed this state by saying that desolation is not the time to make big changes but rather to make an investment to get back into that state of consolation. Instead of dropping some of our spiritual habits, it is time to try out some new habits. Maybe if we've stopped our nightly prayer, we should pick it back up and possibly add in a morning prayer routine. Perhaps we could attend a morning Mass here and there.

The other part of what St. Ignacius recommends is that when we return to a state of consolation that we start planning for the next cycle of desolation. Because desolation will return. Our challenge is to make that next cycle as short as possible. And by planning for it, we can recognize it faster and work to get out of it faster.

As we continue to proceed past Easter, take the time to start planning for desolation. While we'll pray that it never comes, we'll be prepared should it return and ready ourselves to get back to consolation.



*All consolation that does not come from God
is but desolation;
when the soul has learned to receive
no comfort but in God only,
it has passed beyond
the reach of desolation.*

- Jeanne Marie Bouvier de la Motte Guyon



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today, we celebrate "Good Shepherd Sunday" where we reflect on the care and love of Jesus for us. Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will show that you are indeed the disciple of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, as it will bring your love to those who live in fear and doubt, loneliness and dread.

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 MAY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"

DISH SOAP



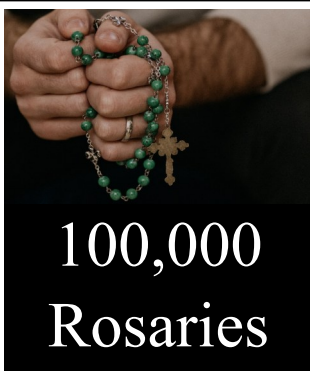
& SPONGES



*All true children of God
have God for their father
and Mary for their mother;
anyone who does not have
Mary for his mother,
does not have God
for his father.*



*- St. Louis de Montfort
from his book True Devotion to Mary*



**100,000
Rosaries**

JOIN BISHOP BARRON AND PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD IN PRAYING THE ROSARY DURING THE MONTH OF MAY

We have a tradition at Word on Fire of asking our supporters to pray a Rosary in the month of May for the intention that those who have left the Church might return to the faith. Since this year is Word on Fire's 25th anniversary, I'd really love to hit 100,000 Rosaries this month. Can you help us do that?

This is our third year doing this and we have been thrilled by your participation each year. The first year, we had a goal of 10,000 Rosaries, and you prayed more than 64,000. In 2024, we upped our goal to 50,000, and we prayed more than 90,000! I always say that any evangelization effort must first be grounded in prayer, so that's why we're doing this. And what better time than in the month dedicated to Our Lady.

For more information, and to log your rosary online visit www.wordonfire.org/pray-rosary/

Log Your Rosary



MAY IS THE MONTH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY!

EWTN TV has a variety of Marian themed shows you won't want to miss! Tune into one of these special programs. For more EWTN TV and Radio program scheduling, go to: ewtn.com

FÁTIMA: A LIVING FAITH

May 10, 2:00 PM (1hr.)

FROM THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF FÁTIMA: ROSARY & CANDLELIGHT PROCESSION

May 12, 4:30 PM (90 min.)

HOLY MASS IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF FÁTIMA

May 13, 3:00 PM. (3 hrs.)

OUR LADY OF FÁTIMA:

A MODERN MESSAGE FOR MODERN TIMES

May 14-17, 5:30 PM (30 min.)

VISITED BY THE LIGHT

May 16, 6:00 AM (30 min.)

(All times are Eastern Time)

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST



St. Peter Julian Eymard 1811 - 2005

*"The Eucharist began
at Bethlehem
in Mary's arms.
It was she who
brought to humanity
the Bread for which
it was famishing,
and which alone
can nourish it.
She it was who took care
of that Bread for us.
It was she
who nourished the Lamb
whose life-giving Flesh
we feed upon."*



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

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:

SFBulletin7717@gmail.com.

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. **The signup sheets for the next couple of week are on the light side, and some weeks we do not have any parishioners signed up to bring in pastries.** 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).



Are you receiving your copy of the East Tennessee Catholic? All parishioners should be receiving this monthly newspaper publication. Several parishioners notified us recently that they were not receiving their copy of the East Tennessee Catholic, so we're trying to make sure everyone is aware of this informative newspaper. Please contact the office if you are not receiving your copy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
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

DIOCESAN JOB OPENINGS



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Diocese of Knoxville Chancery Office is searching for an Administrative Assistant to the Office of Christian Formation and the Diaconate. Please see the diocesan website at <https://dioknox.org/employment> for a specific job description. If you are interested in applying for this position, please send your cover letter and resume to Maura Lentz at mlentz@dioknox.org.

MULTIMEDIA REPORTER

The Diocese of Knoxville is seeking a talented Multimedia Reporter to join our Communications team. This role will create engaging content for the East Tennessee Catholic newspaper, our website, and social media platforms, connecting with our diverse and growing community across East Tennessee. This position will work closely with our Hispanic Ministry, so bilingual is a plus (English/Spanish). Go to <https://dioknox.org/> to read the complete job description and for information on submitting a resume.



Happy Mother's Day!

THE LOVELIEST MASTERPIECE
OF THE HEART OF GOD
IS THE HEART OF A MOTHER

— ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX

Scan here to learn
more about the
**Bishop's Appeal
for Ministries**



DIOCESE OF KNOXVILLE

THANK YOU

for your commitment
to the **2025 Bishop's
Appeal for Ministries!**

Mary's "yes" to God was an act of trust, courage, and love—one that changed the world forever. Inspired by her example, you, too, have said "yes" through your prayers and generosity. Thank you for supporting the 2025 Bishop's Appeal for Ministries and making Christ's love known throughout East Tennessee.

Your gifts help sustain the ministries that serve our diocese, from forming future priests and supporting our deacons to nurturing children in the faith and providing essential outreach through Catholic Charities and St. Mary's Legacy Clinic. Because of you, free healthcare reaches those in need, faith formation programs continue to grow, and seminarians can follow the call God has placed on their hearts.

Every act of generosity, no matter the size, is a reflection of Mary's trust in God's plan. Your "yes" is a gift to the Church and to all those who rely on these ministries. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the Bishop's Appeal for Ministries—your faith and generosity are transforming lives!

**Together, we are building a vibrant, loving community
that reflects Christ's love and mission.
Thank you for being a part of this journey!**

Meet POPE LEO XIV!

Born: **September 14, 1955**

Ordained Priest: **June 19, 1982**

Appointed Cardinal by Pope Francis:
September 30, 2023

Elected Pope: **May 8, 2025**



A Brief Introduction

On May 8, 2025, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, O.S.A., was elected the 267th pope, taking the name Pope Leo XIV.

Pope Leo was born September 14, 1955, in Chicago, Illinois. Before his election as pope, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost served for over two decades in Peru. In 2014, Pope Francis appointed Cardinal Prevost as Apostolic Administrator of Callao. As a member of the Order of Saint Augustine (O.S.A.), he brings to the papacy decades of experience in missionary service, especially among the poor, marginalized, and migrants. He has been an advocate for ecclesial reform and deeper dialogue within the global Church.

He served as Prior General of the Augustinians from 2001 to 2013. Before becoming a bishop, he worked in Peru as a seminary professor, judicial vicar, parish pastor, and diocesan official. He was elevated to the College of Cardinals by Pope Francis on September 30, 2023. His prior roles include serving as Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops from 2023 to 2025, where he played a key role in shaping episcopal leadership worldwide.

Pope Leo's First Steps as Pontiff: What to Expect from the Early Days of His Papacy

His First Words: **The *Urbi et Orbi* Blessing**

Pope Leo XIV delivered his first address from St. Peter's Basilica, known as the *Urbi et Orbi* ("to the city and to the world") blessing. The first words of this short, prayerful message, which he gave from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica following the "*Habemus Papam!*" announcement, were "Peace be with all of you!" He continued by saying, "The world needs Christ's light. Humanity needs him to be the bridge so that God and his love can reach us."

These remarks set a tone of hope, reconciliation, and a focus on Christ as the source of unity and peace for humanity. Pope Leo XIV's initial address was resonant, highlighting both a blessing for all and the essential role of faith in bridging divisions and bringing God's love to the world.

His First Public Mass: **The Inauguration**

Within a week, and likely on Sunday, Pope Leo XIV will celebrate the Mass of Inauguration in St. Peter's Square, marking the formal start of his ministry. This Liturgy, attended by thousands, includes the bestowal of the Fisherman's Ring and pallium (symbols of papal authority). A private Mass with the cardinals in the Sistine Chapel often precedes it.