



MAY 18, 2025 FIFTH 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.

ANOIDING 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	5/19	8:30 AM	Gerry Eberhardt
Tue	5/20	8:30 AM	Celerino Mondragon Ortiz
Wed	5/21	NO MORNING MASS	
Thu	5/22	8:30 AM	Charlotte (Charlie) Graham
Fri	5/23	8:30 AM	Johnny Malory
Sat	5/24	4:00 PM	Myra Montera
Sun	5/25	9:00 AM	Louie & Katrina Allocco

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 for May 17th through May 23rd are in memory of Mary Sellers given by Eric and Gail Simons.



The Sanctuary flowers for May 24th through May 30th are in honor of Louie & Katrina Allocco's 34th Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations Louie and Katrina!

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	5/19	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	5/20		
Wed	5/21	5:00 PM	SVdP - PRC
Thu	5/22		
Fri	5/23		
Sat	5/24	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	5/25	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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



THE FOUR LOVES

In 1960 C.S. Lewis wrote a book called *The Four Loves*. In it, he explores the notion that humans feel different kinds of love depending on where they are at a particular moment in their lives. He points out that these different kinds of love can and often do intersect. The words are storge, phileo, eros, and agape.

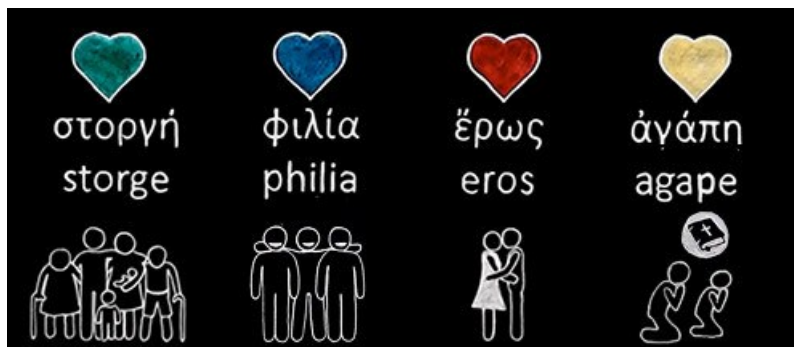
Our first experience of love comes from our families. Our love for our parents, and the love we show them is known as storge. Family love compels parents to wake up at 2:00 a.m. for feedings and to attend to diaper changes until potty training is complete. Family love motivates fathers to coach little league teams and mothers to drive their children to soccer practice. As children grow older, the tables are turned and they are now responsible for their parents.

Now that we have the love of family, we're ready to make friends. You have all heard of the City of Brotherly Love: Philadelphia. The city gets its name from the Greek word philia. The first step in making friends is finding something you have in common, something you can share. It could be school, church, book club, sports, or simply bumping into someone at Starbucks. True friends are more than casual acquaintances or business associates. Philia, the Greek term for deep friendship, refers to those who stand by us through good and bad times.

Next is eros, or romantic love. The exclusive love between one man and one woman. This means you and only you. Romantic love means enjoying each other's company more than anyone else's, declaring "This is the one, the love of my life." True romantic love also includes friendship, as highlighted in **Tuesdays with Morrie**, where Morrie explains how respect, compromise, open communication, and shared values are essential in marriage. In romantic love, couples are friends as well.

Agape, or pure love, is the type of love Jesus referred to when he said "love one another;" and was used in "God is love;" (1 John 4:16). It's a selfless love that we choose and often see in strong marriages.

God's love for us is the foundation of agape. Without it we cannot love each other, cannot love our friends, or cannot love the stranger. Jesus reminds us that we are called to show this agape love to God and to others, whether they are friends or enemies. Jesus instructs us to "love one another." We learn love first from our families, then through friendships and romantic relationships. This prepares us for agape love, which is loving each person as a brother or sister in Christ. Whether they are strangers, neighbors, or family members, we should aim to love with a pure, God-like love.



CATECHISM

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BY: Julie Dew

THE EVOLUTION OF THE ROSARY

Happy Easter St. Francis! Yup, we're still in the Easter Season and I can continue saying "Happy Easter" until Pentecost which is June 8th this year! The Easter Season, which is 50 days long, occupies the longest liturgical season of the year, outside of Ordinary Time. It comes after the conclusion of Lent and the Sacred Paschal Triduum. Am I the only one who missed the "Gloria" or the "Great Amen". Hallelujah – they are back!!! Oh, and I missed the

hallelujahs too!

As Ilene said, the month of May is dedicated to our Heavenly Mother Mary. Why? Well, as with any question, about the Catholic Church, especially Mary, there are several reasons why the month of May is dedicated to Mary.

Historically, early Christians sought to "baptize" pagan culture by dedicating May, a month associated with fertility goddesses like Artemis, to the Mother of God. This rededication aligns with the Church's mission to transform cultural practices into Christian expressions. Biblically, Mary is honored as "blessed among women" (Luke 1:41-42) due to her unique role in salvation history. Her "yes" to God's plan and her union with Christ set her apart. The Second Vatican Council highlights her spiritual motherhood, as she cooperated in the Savior's work (Lumen Gentium 61). *Catholic.com*

Thus, May is a time to reflect on Mary's significance and her role as our spiritual mother. So, what are some ways that we can "reflect" or "honor" Mary's role as the Mother of God? The very first one that comes to mind, for me, is the rosary. Yes, that beautiful and reflective prayer that gives us the New Testament in the form of beads - "the gospel on a string". It's a great description (my opinion and I hope yours) for this fruitful devotion in which we meditate on the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. The rosary, as we know it today, was not formulated by a single individual but developed over time. Tradition holds that Saint Dominic received the rosary in a vision from the Virgin Mary in the 13th century, as a means to combat heresy and promote devotion. However, the structure of the rosary, with its specific prayers and mysteries, evolved over centuries. The rosary is a meditative prayer that reflects on the life of Jesus and Mary, with its roots in the monastic practice of praying the Psalms. It is a powerful tool for deepening one's faith and connection to the mysteries of Christ's life.

We might also describe the rosary as a "contemplative catechism," for we deepen our relationship with Jesus and his Church through reflecting on the key events of His life: His conception, birth, and boyhood; His preaching the kingdom and instituting the Eucharist; His suffering and death; and His triumph over sin and death in rising from the dead. After His resurrection, we reflect on His sending the Holy Spirit and welcoming His mother into heaven as His greatest disciple and queen of heaven and Earth.

In short, the rosary reaffirms that Catholicism begins and ends with Jesus. In the same vein, our devotion to Mary flows from her being the Mother of God. And Christianity is not simply rooted in something Jesus did 2,000 years ago, a "finished" event from which we can still draw saving grace; rather, the Faith is rooted in a redemptive sacrifice that continues in His resurrection and culminates in everlasting glory at Christ's ascension, as "He always lives to make intercession" for us in "heaven itself, now."

Uh-oh! I've run out of room, so we will "talk" more about the rosary next week! Have a most blessed week St Francis!





THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today, Jesus says "I give you a new commandment: love one another....This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

By your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you show that you have love for one another, especially those suffering and poor, and that indeed you are the disciple of Jesus.

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

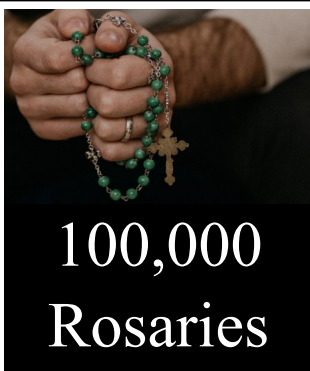


*Do not leave God at church.
Bring him with you everywhere you go.
Make Jesus personal to you -
the Lord of your time,
relationships,
work, leisure, and treasures.*



—Mike Pacer

from his book, Prayers for Catholic Men



**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



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:

SFABulletin7717@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).



SECOND COLLECTION ON MAY 31ST AND JUNE 1ST FOR THE NATIONAL COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

A second collection will be taken up on May 31st and June 1st for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) in its work of evangelization.

Working to keep the Gospel message in the world, CCC provides Catholic content for radio, the Internet, television, and print publications. CCC focuses on finding new ways to bring the Gospel message **to you** by working to be wherever the faithful and those seeking the faith are. CCC provides content the way **you** need it—on the Internet to strengthen marriage, in podcasts for daily readings, on television for Christmas Mass, and on Facebook for news, discussions, and sharing of the faith. Please be generous in the Collection and support this important work. Fifty percent of the funds collected will also assist the Diocese of Knoxville's Communications Office in our local projects.

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.

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.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

*Pope St. Leo the Great
c 400 - 461*

*"Our sharing
in the Body and Blood of Christ
has no other purpose
than to transform us
into that
which we receive.
Go often to Holy Communion.
Go very often!"*



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

**The
CHOSEN**
SEASON ONE



**BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION
PARISH RESOURCE CENTER**