



MAY 25, 2025 SIXTH 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	5/26	8:30 AM	Jack Troupe
Tue	5/27	8:30 AM	Ruben Fraire
Wed	5/28	NO MORNING MASS	
Thu	5/29	8:30 AM	Brian Barker
Fri	5/30	8:30 AM	Elias, Genoveva, & Graciela Ventura
Sat	5/31	4:00 PM	Deb Koehler
Sun	6/1	9:00 AM	Tranquilino Martin M.

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, Teresa Williams, Jeffrey Garrison, Ann Day, Layla Sexton, Ed Welsh

SANCTUARY FLOWERS:

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	5/26	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	5/27		
Wed	5/28		
Thu	5/29		
Fri	5/30		
Sat	5/31	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	6/1	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass
		10:30 AM	The Chosen - PRC



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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



BE A “KEEPER” OF GOD’S WORDS

After the resurrection, the Apostles and the little flock following, who believed in Jesus, were Jews. They did not see themselves as part of a new religion; thus, they continued to follow their Jewish laws, customs, rituals and traditions. However, there were problems when the Gentiles started to believe in Jesus. Many Jews who accepted Jesus as their savior and messiah insisted that Gentiles had to adopt Jewish ways if they wanted to consider themselves followers of Jesus. So, when our first reading today speaks of circumcision, it is really talking about all the rules and customs the Jews were bound to follow – dietary laws, feast

days, etc. To solve the problem, the leaders of the Church at Antioch, including St. Paul, went to Jerusalem, in order to meet, with some of the other Apostles. Paul insisted that we are saved by Jesus’ death and resurrection and the Jewish traditions and laws, other than moral and ethical laws like the Ten Commandments, were no longer required for salvation. Paul’s views were accepted by the group.

All throughout history, the Church has had challenges to face. When we read about some of those challenges like we heard about in our first reading we wonder how the Church survived – but it did, because Christ is with his Church and it is guided by the Holy Spirit.

The Book of Revelation reminds us of the heavenly kingdom which we all hope to be a part of some day. It will be a kingdom free of suffering, pain and death and there will be eternal happiness. Today’s reading describes God’s kingdom as a great city. Notice they face in all directions, north, south, east and west. It’s a way of saying that God is inviting people from everywhere to enter. Unfortunately, in many other places in the Scriptures, we learn of those who choose not to be there.

This leads into the gospel which was taken from Jesus’ words at the Last Supper according to John. Jesus has just told his Apostles that soon he would reveal to them but not to the world. One of the apostles asked what that meant. Jesus answers, “whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make a dwelling with him.” Jesus is telling us, loving him, has to precede his revealing himself to us. First comes loving him, and then comes seeing him. Jesus said, “whoever loves me will keep my word.” In other words, love is not some nice, warm fuzzy feeling, it’s a practical, down-to-earth thing. It’s more what we do than what we feel. Our culture pays attention only to the feeling part of love and that’s why many people have forgotten that love involves the things we do toward God and to each other.

Being a “keeper of words” as Jesus commands in today’s gospel, means living out the principles and commands that Jesus has taught us and has passed down through generations. It involves a deep, intentional effort to be in tune with the Holy Spirit. This alignment is not just about external actions but is also about an inner transformation, reflecting Christ’s love and values in every aspect of our lives.

In real life, keeping Jesus’ words can be seen in how we interact with other people in our daily lives, the decisions we make and have made, and the priorities we set. For instance, the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself. This principle can be lived out in countless ways, such as showing kindness to strangers, offering help to those in need, forgiving those who have wronged us, and advocating for justice and equality in our communities. Moreover, keeping Jesus’ words involves continual self-examination and growth. It requires us to regularly engage with the Scriptures to understand more deeply what Jesus taught and how we can apply it to our lives. This might mean setting aside time for prayer and Bible study, participating in a faith community that encourages spiritual growth, and being open to the Holy Spirit’s guidance in our decisions and actions.

There is a road map to the heavenly Jerusalem that Jesus is giving us today: First comes obedience, which leads to love which leads to the revealing himself to us and our dwelling with him for eternity. May the Holy Spirit guide us there.



CATECHISM

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BY: Julie Dew

Happy Memorial Day weekend and welcome to the Catechism Corner!

As stated last week, the Church sets aside the month of May for Mary, the Mother of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. To honor Mary, Catholic churches will have May crownings and set aside special times for a parish rosary. Like any good mother, Mary seeks the good of her children, which means helping them attain heaven, in opposition to the devil, who seeks their destruction.

Not only do we honor Mary; we also invoke her or ask her intercession. Some objectors say that we should pray to God alone. Well, we certainly pray directly to God, for we regard the Our Father as the best and most beautiful of all prayers and frequently recite it. But we pray also to Mary, asking her to intercede for us with her divine Son. Because of Mary's concern for her spiritual offspring, we invoke her assistance in the holy rosary, "now and at the hour of our death."

Our Protestant brothers and sisters have difficulty with the devotion we give to our Heavenly Mother. They oppose the rosary because they say it violates the biblical doctrine that Jesus is the "one mediator between God and man" which is from 1 Timothy 2:5 and this is the scripture they quote to defend their statement. Ironically, in that same passage, St. Paul urges us to be collaborators with Jesus in bringing about the salvation of the souls: "I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions" from 1 Timothy 2:1. This is why you may have heard that Catholics, when they read the Bible, are contextualists. This means we interpret Scripture within its historical and cultural context. What do the words say? What did the human author intend his audience to understand? What was he trying to say? What is the context? Spiritual Sense: what is the deeper meaning? And are guided by the Church's Tradition and Magisterium. This approach acknowledges that the Bible is not always easy to understand from 2 Peter 3:15-16 and requires interpretation within the community of the Church from 2 Thessalonians 2:15; and the CCC 80-83. Unlike the Protestant view, which often emphasizes personal interpretation, Catholics believe the Church has the authoritative role in interpreting Scripture from 1 Timothy 3:15; Matthew. 18:17; CCC 85-88). This ensures continuity with the apostolic Tradition and guards against misinterpretation from 2 Peter 1:20-21. In fact, we read in the Old Testament that God positively commanded Eliphaz and his two friends to go to the holy man Job and seek his intercession: "My servant Job shall pray for you; his face I will accept, that folly be not imputed to you" (Job 42:8). Therefore, we Catholics act right when they say: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death." **Sorry**, I digress! That is another subject for the Corner!!

Before I finish, I would like to state two truths that the Church teaches most emphatically: #1: God alone, the Supreme, Infinite Being, must be adored. To adore any creature, however exalted, would be to commit idolatry. It is simply absurd and also grossly unfair to say that Catholics adore Mary. #2: Jesus Christ alone is our Mediator of Redemption. He alone, by His supreme sacrifice, of infinite value, redeemed and ransomed mankind. So, you ask: "What Honor May be Shown to Mary?" Let's "talk" about that next week! Have a beautiful week in East Tennessee!

CELEBRATING THE MONTH OF

Mary





THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today, Jesus says to us: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." In the month of May, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought the love and care of Jesus to the poor by assisting local families, providing them with food and monetary assistance for 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 MAY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"

DISH SOAP



& SPONGES



“ *God waits for us
to let Him in.
He is waiting
for us now,
at this very moment.
When we let Him in,
He will embrace us
with love
and draw us closer
to Himself.* ”

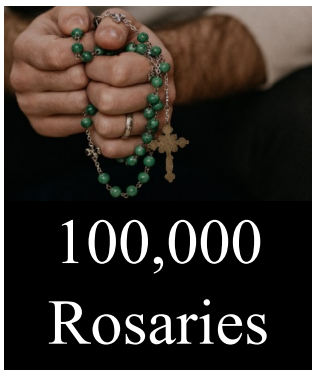
*reCatholic Novenas
from A Rushing Wind:
A Novena with the Holy Spirit*

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

The
CHOSEN
SEASON ONE



BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION
PARISH RESOURCE CENTER



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/

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



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.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST



*Servant of God, Dorothy Day
1897 - 1980*

*"We cannot love God
unless we love each other.
We know Him
in the breaking of bread,
and we know each other
in the breaking of bread,
and we are not alone anymore.
Heaven is a banquet
and life is a banquet, too,
even with a crust,
where there is companionship."*

