



## MAY 4, 2025 THIRD 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

<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	5/5	8:30 AM	Dang ThiSinh
Tue	5/6	8:30 AM	Lois Zehnder
Wed	5/7	<b>NO MORNING MASS</b>	
Thu	5/8	8:30 AM	All Souls in Purgatory
Fri	5/9	8:30 AM	Clarence Keeven
Sat	5/10	4:00 PM	Gloria Colvin
Sun	5/11	9:00 AM	Dang ThiSinh

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:** *The Sanctuary flowers are in memory of Lucas and Mary Simons 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	5/5	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	5/6		
Wed	5/7		
Thu	5/8		
Fri	5/9		
Sat	5/10	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	5/11	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass
		10:30 AM	The Chosen - PRC

**REMAINING SESSIONS:  
MAY 4, 25 AND JUNE 2  
(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

## LECTIO DIVINA



Prayer is essential for an authentic Christian life, serving as the primary means of communicating with God. It is one of the Church's most treasured practices, both communally and individually. The Church's holy doctrines have developed from prayerful readings of Sacred Scripture over millennia. The Holy Mass, our ultimate prayer, demonstrates how Scripture reading and sacraments combine in liturgy.

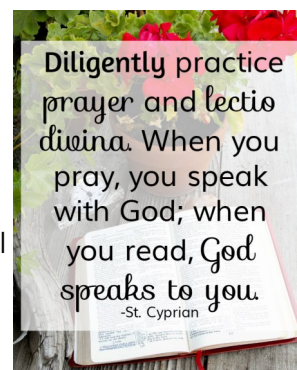
We can see how the prayerful reading of Sacred Scripture has always fueled the spiritual life of the Church. This is the basis of lectio divina. *"Lectio divina is a great river that carries all the riches accumulated over the course of Church history by the fervent readers of God's Word. Lectio divina is never solely our own reading. It feeds on the interpretation of those who have preceded us...if we persevere in lectio divina and silent listening to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches, our effort will be rewarded by unheard-of jewels and riches."* Cardinal Robert Sarah

### THE FOUR STEPS OF LECTIO DIVINA:

The USCCB has provided a helpful summary on how to pray with Scripture using this four-step method of lectio divina, which we will quote here:

1. Read.....The first element of this type of prayer is reading (**lectio**): you take a short passage from the Bible, preferably a Gospel passage and read it carefully, perhaps three or more times. Let it really soak in.
2. Meditate .....The second element is meditation (**meditatio**). By using your imagination enter into the Biblical scene in order to "see" the setting, the people, and the unfolding action. It is through this meditation that you encounter the text and discover its meaning for your life.
3. Pray.....The next element is prayer (**oratio**) or your personal response to the text: asking for graces, offering praise or thanksgiving, seeking healing or forgiveness. In this prayerful engagement with the text, you open yourself up to the possibility of contemplation.
4. Contemplate....Contemplation (**contemplatio**) is a gaze turned toward Christ and the things of God. By God's action of grace, you may be raised above meditation to a state of seeing or experiencing the text as mystery and reality. In contemplation, you come into an experiential contact with the One behind and beyond the text.

(Excerpts from [www.goodcatholic.com](http://www.goodcatholic.com))



## 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.

## CATECHISM

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BY: *Ilene Rainwater*

### MAY IS FOR MARY

Remember (most of us!) growing up celebrating the first weekend in May with May Crowning? If you weren't selected to crown Mary (like me) you might have been in a procession with the lights dimmed (we celebrated on Sunday evening) carrying flashlights glowing and rimmed with whatever flowers might be blooming. And of course, the beautiful songs of Immaculate Mary and Ave Maria.

In the northern hemisphere May brings the height of spring booming. In pre-Christian times May was a feast day heralding the fertility of the Earth and the month of May was dedicated to different goddess figures such as Artemis (Greece) and Flora (Rome). In Medieval times the month of May slowly became dedicated to different celebrations of Mary, whose "Yes" to God is the witness to fruitfulness. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century it became a time of daily devotion to Our Lady, and it became commonplace to crown statues of Mary with wreaths of flowers.

The month of May has been set apart by the Church for the special devotion to the Mother of God. The 13<sup>th</sup> of May is the Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima. Around convents and monasteries, you will always find a statue of Mary inviting her children to go in and pay a visit to her Jesus. We hold this month special because, of course, Mary is the mother of Jesus and also our Beloved Mother to whom we can turn to constantly for guidance and prayers.

We honor the Blessed Virgin Mary through Marian devotions, practices of piety and faith directed toward her, encompassing prayers, meditations, and other actions that express reverence and love for Mary, Mother of Jesus. Scripture reveals Mary as mother, wife, cousin, and friend. Over the centuries she has carried many names including Queen of Peace, Gate of Heaven, Untier of Knots, and Mother of Sorrows just to name a few.

There have been many beautiful names and devotions honoring Mary. In the Litany of Loreto Mary is referred to as Vessel, Ark, House, and Tower. We know that the closeness she experienced to our Lord during her pregnancy was much more intimate than these descriptions. She was indeed "full of grace." Marian piety, besides novenas, prayers, and celebrations, also includes various articles. Among the many medals dedicated to the Blessed Virgin the most recognized is the "Miraculous Medal" dating back to its origin of 1830. As with the "Miraculous Medal", many other devotional articles have been established through apparitions such as those of Lourdes and Fatima. The Rosary of course is the most widely prayed. The scapular was also established at Fatima, the most common being the scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Marian devotions have become increasingly popular worldwide. There are many, such as Our Lady of Guadalupe and Our Lady of Lourdes, celebrated by many countries but also many local and regional celebrations throughout the world.

How can you establish your own devotion to Mary? There is personal prayer, the Rosary, the Angelis, litanies, novenas, spiritual reading, a pilgrimage or many specific prayers to our Blessed Mother. In his Apostolic Letter *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, Pope John Paul II emphasized the importance of Marian devotions by quoting Saint Louis de Montfort: "Since Mary is of all creatures the one most conformed to Jesus Christ, it follows that among all devotions that which most consecrates and conforms a soul to our Lord is devotion to Mary, his Holy Mother, and that the more a soul is consecrated to her the more will it be consecrated to Jesus Christ."

However you choose to devote time to Mary, your reward will be joy and intimacy with our Blessed Mother along with a deeper relationship with Christ.







## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In this Sunday's Gospel, the disciples in their struggle finally recognize Jesus and proclaim "It is the Lord!" You can help the poor recognize the Lord in their life by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

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 MAY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"

DISH SOAP



& SPONGES

"You cannot become more like Jesus Christ and at the same time stay as you are... It is this dynamic approach to transformation that animates the human person-physically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually-and allows us to experience 'life to the fullest.'"

MATTHEW KELLY  
Rediscover Catholicism



### IT'S VIDALIA ONION TIME!

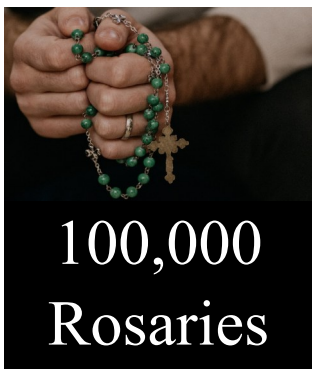
The One Heart Colombia Mission Team is taking orders for Vidalia onions! Please reserve your bag(s) of onions by signing up on the sign-up sheet in Shea Hall. The onions will be delivered to St. Francis of Assisi Church in May.

**10 LB. BAG FOR \$10**

YOUR ORDER HELPS AND SUPPORTS THE



MISSION GROUP



### 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/](http://www.wordonfire.org/pray-rosary/)

**Log Your Rosary**



### DIOCESAN JOB OPENING

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. Send cover letter and resume to Maura Lentz at [mlentz@dioknox.org](mailto:mlentz@dioknox.org).



“Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did.”

- St. Maximilian Kolbe  
1894-1941



## Happy Mother's Day !

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

- ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX



### 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](http://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



**Pope St. John Paul II**  
1920 - 2005

“Let us listen to Mary Most Holy, in whom the mystery of the Eucharist appears, more than in anyone else, as a mystery of light. Gazing upon Mary, may we come to know the transforming power present in the Eucharist. In her we see the world renewed in love.”

- Pope St. John Paul II  
encyclical, *Eucharistia de Ecclesia*