



JUNE 1, 2025 ASCENSION SUNDAY

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 | 6/2 | 8:30 AM | |
| Tue | 6/3 | 8:30 AM | |
| Wed | 6/4 | NO MORNING MASS | |
| Thu | 6/5 | 8:30 AM | |
| Fri | 6/6 | 8:30 AM | Philip Peychal |
| Sat | 6/7 | 4:00 PM | Bernard Eberhardt, Rex Bell |
| Sun | 6/8 | 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, 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, Joyce Welsh

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: 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.



BISHOP'S APPEAL
for **MINISTRIES**
Building up the Church in East Tennessee

APRIL 2025

Pledged: \$15,500
Collections to Date: \$11,895

Collections Needed to Reach Goal: **3,605.00**

Due to your tremendous support, the Bishop's Appeal for Ministries continues to support and strengthen the programs, services, and ministries of our Church. Thank you St. Francis of Assisi, Townsend—you are making ministries possible!

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

| | | | |
|------------|------------|---------|------------------------|
| Mon | 6/2 | 9:00 AM | Church & Hall Cleaning |
| Tue | 6/3 | | |
| Wed | 6/4 | 5:00 PM | SVdP - PRC |
| Thu | 6/5 | | |
| Fri | 6/6 | 9:00 AM | Adoration |
| Sat | 6/7 | 4:00 PM | Vigil Mass |
| Sun | 6/8 | 9:00 AM | Sunday Mass |



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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



ASCENSION SUNDAY - CELEBRATING THE UNIVERSAL LORD

When I was a kid, the Solemnity of the Ascension occurred on a Thursday, known as Ascension Thursday, 40 days after Easter. It was a Holy Day of Obligation. It still is in some dioceses. But in most dioceses the Solemnity is transferred to the following Sunday. That is why we are here today.

Back then I never could understand why we had to dress up and go to church on Thursday? My dad would simply reply: "Because it's a Holy Day." To which I responded, well if we go to Church tonight, do we have to go on Sunday? Not a very smart question on my part, and we

in fact went to Mass on Ascension Thursday and the following Sunday. The Ascension is so important, it is affirmed in all the creeds of the Church. The Catechism of the Catholic Church breaks the creed down into twelve articles of faith. The sixth article is the one we celebrate today: "He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father." We will profess that in just a few minutes. The Ascension reminds us that after the human and divine natures of Christ were united in the Incarnation, they could never be separated. In other words, after the saving death and Resurrection, Jesus did not dump his human body as if he did not need it anymore. Catholicism teaches that his human body will exist forever. Where Jesus went, body and soul, into heaven, the faithful hope one day to follow.

The mystery of the Ascension is in all the creeds because it proclaims some powerful truths. First, the Ascension is about Jesus returning into the Father's glory and what that means for us. Jesus' Ascension reminds us that now He cannot be captured by any one country. He is Lord of all the nations. He is no longer bound to any one language. He can be reached in any language. He is not owned by any one culture. He can be part of all cultures. As the Letter to the Ephesians says, "He fills the universe in all its parts." The Ascension means that Jesus is the universal Lord. Every part of this world comes within His redeeming, healing embrace.

Second, the Ascension is not just about Jesus' absence but about a different kind of presence. Jesus leaves in a dramatic way enveloped by the cloud to emphasize that from now on He will be with us in a new kind of way, not visually but in His spiritual, sacramental presence. Our experience of Christ is not like that of the disciples who saw Him, touched Him and ate with Him. Our experience of the Risen Lord is like that of the billions since then who have not seen with their eyes but have real contact with Christ through faith, the sacraments, prayer and the life of the Church.

Finally, the Ascension is not only about Jesus but also about us. Where Jesus is now, we hope someday to be. "I am going to prepare a place for you," says the Lord. Although the life journey for each of us is different, our destination is the same, union with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Because Jesus returned to the Father and sent the Holy Spirit, He is more than an example. He is now close to every one of us. That is why after the Ascension, the Apostles returned to the Temple praising God and that is why we are here today. The Ascension is not about absence but about the new, spiritual presence of Christ to all of us, wherever we are, through the Holy Spirit. Now, the Risen Jesus is as close to us as the beating of our heart. The Ascension means that Jesus is gone from our sight but not from our life. If we really want to meet the Risen Christ all we have to do is come to church.



CATECHISM

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BY: Julie Dew

Happy Ascension of the Lord! In our Diocese, we celebrate this special feast on Sunday instead of Thursday. Canon Law has relegated the holy days to local bishops or provincial synodal decision. There are actually, as of 1993, only seven states in the U.S. that still celebrate the Ascension on Thursday rather than the following Sunday.

I have a few more "statements" about our devotion to our Heavenly Mother. Last week, I ended with a question: "What Honor May be Shown to Mary?"

Think about this statement: Of all creatures Mary has the unique privilege of adoring her own Child. To Mary alone can God the Son address the sweet title Mother! This may be true, but when we read John 19:25-27 it is significant because it highlights Mary's spiritual motherhood. At the cross, Jesus entrusts Mary to the beloved disciple, saying, "Woman, behold your son," and to the disciple, "Behold your mother." This act is seen as Jesus giving Mary as a mother to all believers, not just to John. This passage underscores the intimate relationship between Mary and the Church, as she becomes a mother to all Christians.

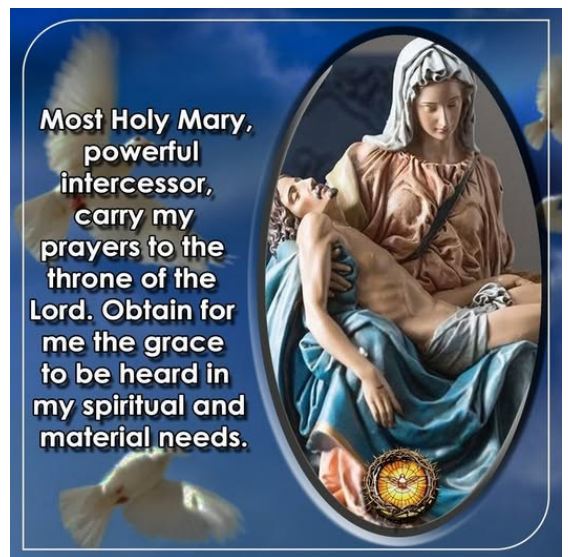
Scripture teaches devotion to Mary by reflecting carefully from the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke, verse 26 to 55. In my opinion, it is very hard to understand how any Christian can study this passage and then refuse to honor Mary. Why, the "Hail Mary," which we love to address to the Blessed Virgin, is explicitly given there; part of it was said by the angel Gabriel and part by Elizabeth. The angel was inspired by God and Elizabeth "was filled with the Holy Ghost." Let us put together the words that the angel Gabriel and Elizabeth addressed to Mary: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed are thou among women" (v. 28) and blessed is the fruit of thy womb." The only addition we have made are the two names, "Mary" and "Jesus." So, in saying the Hail Mary, we are explicitly following the Bible.

You will notice, as we continue, that Mary in that beautiful canticle known as the Magnificat, which is recorded by the inspired writer from verse 46 to 55, declared: "Behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed" (v. 48). Who, I ask, fulfills this prophecy? And who should this adjective blessed be given to? There is only one conclusion.

Now, the second part of the prayer was formulated in the 15th century. This second part, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death," reflected the Church's growing devotion to Mary and her intercessory role. This development highlights the Church's understanding of Mary as a powerful intercessor and her unique role in salvation history. This is like when anyone asks you to pray for them. What better person to ask to pray for you but Jesus's Mother? Right?

Remember the miracle of turning water into wine at the Wedding Feast at Cana? In the Gospel of John 2:1-11 at the request of His Mother this public miracle was done! ALSO, if St. Paul asked the Romans to "help him in their prayers for him to God" (Rom. 15:16); if he wrote to the Thessalonians, "Pray for us," why (may we) not ask Mary, who is far holier and nearer to God than the Roman and Thessalonian converts, to "pray for us"?

What a beautiful honor to give our heavenly Mother to say the Hail Mary and ask for her intercession... I hope you enjoyed reading this as much as I enjoyed writing it! Have a most blessed week filled with many joy-filled moments!



**Most Holy Mary,
powerful
intercessor,
carry my
prayers to the
throne of the
Lord. Obtain for
me the grace
to be heard in
my spiritual and
material needs.**



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today as we celebrate the feast of the Ascension we are reminded that Christ's saving work on earth continues through his disciples... and now through us. When we give to the poor, God indeed pours his love, peace and joy into our hearts, into our lives and into the hearts of those who are poor.

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"



—*St. Padre Pio*

Confessor and Spiritual Director



*All graces
given by God
pass through
the Blessed Mother.*



**ONLY 1 SESSION LEFT:
JUNE 1 - 10:30 AM
PARISH RESOURCE CENTER**

**The
CHOSEN**
SEASON ONE



JUNE 7 & 8 SECOND COLLECTION - MAINTENANCE FUND

Your donations made to this fund will help pay for the rising cost of maintaining our aging buildings and to continue with preventative maintenance. This would not be possible without your generous contributions to the Maintenance Fund! Thank you for your support!

Visitors to our beautiful little church on the Little River frequently ask where their donation would be of the most use. We are very thankful for our visitor's financial contributions, especially during our lean winter months when tourism typically declines. This Maintenance Fund would be a great choice for making your donation!

To contribute to this fund, please place your pre-printed envelope in the **second** collection basket the weekend of June 7th and 8th. If you do not have a pre-printed envelope, you may place cash or check in the **second** collection basket.

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH.

If you choose to mail in your donation, please mark on the envelope or check that it is for the "Maintenance" Fund and send it to:

St. Francis of Assisi Church (Maintenance Fund Contribution)
7717 River Rd. Townsend, TN 37882





BECOMING A DEACON – APPLYING FOR THE PROGRAM

Applying for the deacon formation program is a foreshadowing of the workload we will encounter in the actual program. As you might imagine, they have a form you need to complete to gather basic background information. They have you also get copies of your sacramental records (baptism, first communion, confirmation, and marriage). They even want copies of education records from high school, college, and certification programs. The aspirant writes a letter to the bishop expressing interest in entering the diaconate. If married, his wife completes a series of questions indicating her impression on whether her husband is fit for the program.

The most involved part of the application is writing an autobiography of your life. They want to know about your family upbringing, your marriage, your employment, and your involvement in parish activities. It then wraps up with an essay answering the question about how you think you are being called to the diaconate. It gives the diocese a sense of whether you are willing to put in the work for the program as well as insight into who you are.



WELCOMING EVENTS & SOCIAL TEAM MEETING

Tuesday, June 10, 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 Summer and Fall planning activities for our parish!
A light lunch will be served.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION - 6/6/25



*“Always remain close
to the Catholic Church,
because it alone
can give you true peace,
since it alone possesses
Jesus in the
Blessed Sacrament,
the true Prince of
Peace.”*

- St. Padre Pio

Mass: 8:30 AM
Adoration: 9:00 - Noon
Healing Service: 9:00 AM
(in Shea Hall)
Benediction: Noon

If you are interested in committing to a Holy Hour,
please contact Jackie Wagner at 330-807-8663.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST



*Archbishop Fulton Sheen
1895 - 1979*

*“The Holy Hour
becomes
like an oxygen tank
to revive the breath
of the Holy Spirit
in the midst of
the foul and fetid
atmosphere
of the world.*