



**AUGUST 10, 2025
19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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
OCIA	Dc. Jim Schmall	WELCOMING, EVENTS &	All Parishioners
ART & ENVIRONMENT	Michele Girard	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 sfbulletin7717@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 8/11** 8:30 AM Kathy Meyerkord
- Tue 8/12** 8:30 AM Jessie Bell, Samantha Eberhardt †
- Wed 8/13** **NO MORNING MASS**
- Thu 8/14** 8:30 AM Kay Walker †
- Fri 8/15** 8:30 AM Mary, Blessed Mother
- Sat 8/16** 4:00 PM Dăng Thi (tee) Sinh (see) †
- Sun 8/17** 9:00 AM Martha Giraldo †

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, Thomas Fay, Sofia Graziano, Dale DuRussel, Suzie Fay

SANCTUARY FLOWERS:

The sanctuary flowers are in thanksgiving for Fr. Antonio Giraldo. 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. Thank You!



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST



*St. Dominic Savio
1842 - 1857*

"I need nothing in this world in order to be happy. I only need to see Jesus in Heaven, whom I now see and adore on the Altar with the eyes of faith."



ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Mon 8/11** 9:00 AM Church & Hall Cleaning
- Tue 8/12**
- Wed 8/13**
- Thu 8/14** 6:00 PM Assumption Vigil Mass
- Fri 8/15** 9:00 AM Assumption Mass
- Sat 8/16** 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
- Sun 8/17** 9:00 AM Sunday Mass



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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



WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE GIFT OF FAITH

The spiritual tradition we follow as Christians did not begin with Christ. It began long before Christ as God prepared the world for the coming of Jesus through the Jewish people. The two readings from the Old Testament take us back in history to our spiritual beginning.

The Letter to the Hebrews takes us back to the time of Abraham, almost 19 centuries before Christ. Abraham and his wife Sarah were the parents of the Jewish people. Hebrews put Abraham and Sarah as models of faith for us to imitate. The Book of Wisdom takes us back several centuries to after the time of Abraham to the time when God's people, in faith, left

Egypt to head to the Promised Land under the leadership of Moses.

We have been introduced to the faith of Abraham and Sarah as they left their homeland and relatives to travel to a new land where God was leading them. They had faith too in God's promise that they would have many descendants even as they were without children and were growing older. We were also introduced to the faith of the Jewish people as they set out under the leadership of Moses, leaving behind an unpleasant life of slavery for a more uncertain journey through desert and wilderness to an unknown land.

Each of us today is making his or her own journey. It might be toward graduation from school, toward marriage, or toward a new career or retirement. Whatever it is, time is moving us along. We know from experience that if it's a better place we are moving toward, we need to adequately prepare ourselves for it.

In our journey through life, there is an event that we definitely need to prepare for. That is the day we are going to meet our Lord, not just in prayer, not just in the sacraments, not just in the invisible, but in a visible unmistakable way at the end of life's journey. It's a meeting most of us like to put off as long as possible and many people do not like to even think about. That's why our Lord warns us to prepare for it, because we may tend to procrastinate or just put it out of our minds altogether.

Jesus gives us two clear examples in today's gospel: The head of a household who was out of town for a wedding celebration, and the one about a thief. The reason he warns us is not to fill us with fear, but because he loves us and he wants us to share in all the blessings he has for us. Being prepared is not something we can fake or make happen at the last second. It's the way we live our lives in faith and love.

Jesus asks us to exercise all our potential, be prepared for what may come, and use our gifts wisely. We have received many wonderful gifts, but have we exercised our potential with what we have been given? We have been given the gift of faith. This great gift from God challenges us as we hear in the letter to the Hebrews, to have confident assurance concerning the things we hope for and the convictions we hold about what we cannot see.

How would we answer Jesus when he says, "More is expected of the one to whom more is given"? Do we show gratitude to God by giving back some of what we have been given? Are we exercising our full potential? Only you can answer!



The object of faith is not feelings but truth, and the subject and agent of faith is will, not feelings. The will is like the ocean, and the feelings are like the waves. The ocean is always reliably there even though the waves are high one day and low the next.



- Peter Kreeft

from his book, *From Calvinist to Catholic*

CATECHISM

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BY: David Quinn

THE SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is for healing our souls. Anointing of the Sick helps in healing physically as well as spiritually. Our physical bodies are frail and may not always be in optimal condition. On those occasions when illness is serious, the Church provides a rite to help in healing. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) says "Hence, as soon as anyone of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived." [1514]

The sacrament is administered only by a priest or bishop (not a deacon) and follows the form specified in James 5:14-15. The priest quietly prays over the person and lays his hands on the person. The priest then uses the anointing oil blessed by the Bishop during Holy Week to bring greater grace from the Holy Spirit. Like other sacraments, the Church encourages that the sacrament be administered during Mass; however, it can be performed privately at a person's home, at a hospital, or other place of care, especially in the case of an emergency. This sacrament recreates the healing portion of Jesus' mission during His life. We read of multiple healing miracles throughout the Gospels, where Jesus brings sight to the blind, gives hearing to the deaf, allows invalids to walk, and cures lepers. His healing is so complete that we see Peter's mother-in-law get up out of bed and start serving everyone in the house [Matt 8:14-15, Mark 1:29-31, Luke 4:38-39]. We also see the gift of healing being passed on to the Apostles as there are many healing miracles performed by St. Peter and St. Paul in Acts of the Apostles.

Physical suffering is part of every life and makes us more empathetic to others. While there is a salvific gift received in suffering, the Church does not believe people need to needlessly or intentionally suffer. Seeking healing through the Lord is a beautiful expression of faith and a witness to His Gospel. If someone that received Anointing gets better but then either gets worse again or suffers from another ailment, it is okay to receive the sacrament again. Like Reconciliation and Eucharist, the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick can be received multiple times, just not as frequently as Eucharist and Reconciliation. It is not intended for minor illnesses like having a cold or pulling a muscle. However, it can be administered before someone goes for surgery and undergoes anesthesia since complications can happen during those types of events.

People used to be under the impression that you only received the sacrament when you were near death. That's why the sacrament was sometimes confused with "Last Rites." Last Rites is actually three sacrament performed together: Anointing, Confession, and Eucharist (also called Viaticum as food for the journey to eternal life).

DEACON FORMATION



BY: DAVID QUINN

BECOMING A DEACON – PERFORMING EXEGESIS

We were getting ready to study Scripture but had to learn how to find deeper meaning in books written centuries before Christ and even a couple centuries after Christ. The approach is called "exegesis."

There are four main factors when looking at Scripture. You consider who the author was, when the author wrote the Scripture, who the audience of the Scripture was, and how the author wrote it. Since Scripture is the inspired word of God and not a dictation from God, we need to understand some of the restrictions of the author in writing Scripture. Even the language they wrote in is important because what is written in Hebrew may have a different tone than what was written in Greek or Latin. This may be most evident in the four Gospels. All four describe the same life, teachings, and death of Christ but we see them described differently. When you consider that Matthew was likely writing to Jews to get them to accept that Jesus was the Messiah and that John was writing to Greeks to explain how Jesus was divine, you can see why they would have selected different events about Jesus and different ways of describing them.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel, Jesus says "Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy." Please help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul bring respite and hope to the elderly who are not able to find relief from the summer heat, and you will indeed find "an inexhaustible treasure in heaven!"

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!

Thank You
for your continued support of SVDP!

SVDP AUGUST "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" PASTA & PASTA SAUCE



2024-25 FISCAL ENDING AND THIS YEAR'S BUDGET



St. Francis of Assisi completed its recent fiscal year (FY2025) on June 30th with revenues (collections, donations, gift shop, etc.) totaling \$209,911.58 and incurred expenses of \$198,145.50. Therefore, we had a positive margin of \$11,766.08. It has been awhile since we operated in the black by that much.

Fr. Antonio and the Parish Finance Committee met to set up our budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year. The budget process starts with the Diocese informing us how much our assessment for the coming year will be; calculating its assessments based on the income from the last reported fiscal year, which was the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. For this new fiscal year, our assessment is pretty consistent with other years. It is also important to note that all parishes in the diocese pay the same assessment fee rates. No parish is charged more because they are bigger or charged less because they are smaller.

Once we get the Diocese's assessment, Fr. Antonio and the Finance Committee walk through each income and expense line item looking at what we had last year in the budget, how we expect the year to finish, and what the average of the previous five years looked like. We then set a dollar figure for what we think is reasonable for the coming fiscal year. It is a detailed process but one that has gotten us to predict fairly accurately what our needs are for the parish.

We did a very good job of containing expenses last year. We continue to explore different ways of saving on expense items, while also trying to anticipate major expenses. Our maintenance fund has helped with unexpected expenses like the water pipe that broke between the church and the Parish Resource Center a couple of months ago. However, focusing solely on trying to contain expenses is not going to be sufficient as our buildings continue to age and utilities and other expenses continue to rise. We need parishioners to consider helping out with extra contributions throughout the year.

In closing, thank you for all you have done to support our Parish this past year. It is through your continued generosity that we are able to maintain this beautiful Parish we call home and that visitors can enjoy the little church by the Little River.

RAIN AND SHINE - THE PARISH PICNIC WAS ENJOYED BY ALL!



Thank you Ron & Claire Andersen for sharing your Concord Yacht Club membership with your parish family! The facility was perfect for our Parish Picnic! Thank you to our grill cooks and runners: Ron Andersen, Dave Girard, Michael Dew, and Dan O'Donnell (who especially wants to thank Dan Meyerkord for the use of his raincoat!). Thank you to all of the parishioners who brought amazing side dishes. And thank you to our tireless kitchen workers Ilene and Norene who kept the over-abundance of food on the buffet and desert table well organized and attended!

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



The Assumption is the oldest feast day of Our Lady, but we don't know how it first came to be celebrated. Its origin is lost in those days when Jerusalem was restored as a sacred city, at the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine (c. 285-337). By then it had been a pagan city for two centuries, ever since Emperor Hadrian (76-138) had leveled it around the year 135 and rebuilt it as <Aelia Capitolina> in honor of Jupiter.

For 200 years, every memory of Jesus was obliterated from the city, and the sites made holy by His life, death and Resurrection became pagan

temples.

After the building of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in 336, the sacred sites began to be restored and memories of the life of Our Lord began to be celebrated by the people of Jerusalem. One of the memories about his mother centered around the "Tomb of Mary," close to Mount Zion, where the early Christian community had lived. On the hill itself was the "Place of Dormition," the spot of Mary's "falling asleep," where she had died. The "Tomb of Mary" was where she was buried.

At this time, the "Memory of Mary" was being celebrated. Later it was to become our feast of the Assumption. For a time, the "Memory of Mary" was marked only in Palestine, but then it was extended by the emperor to all the churches of the East. In the seventh century, it began to be celebrated in Rome under the title of the "Falling Asleep" ("Dormitio") of the Mother of God.

Soon the name was changed to the "Assumption of Mary," since there was more to the feast than her dying. It also proclaimed that she had been taken up, body and soul, into heaven. That belief was ancient, dating back to the apostles themselves. What was clear from the beginning was that there were no relics of Mary to be venerated, and that an empty tomb stood on the edge of Jerusalem near the site of her death. That location also soon became a place of pilgrimage. (Today, the Benedictine Abbey of the Dormition of Mary stands on the spot.)

At the Council of Chalcedon in 451, when bishops from throughout the Mediterranean world gathered in Constantinople, Emperor Marcian asked the Patriarch of Jerusalem to bring the relics of Mary to Constantinople to be enshrined in the capitol. The patriarch explained to the emperor that there were no relics of Mary in Jerusalem, that "Mary had died in the presence of the apostles; but her tomb, when opened later . . . was found empty and so the apostles concluded that the body was taken up into heaven."

In the eighth century, St. John Damascene was known for giving sermons at the holy places in Jerusalem. At the Tomb of Mary, he expressed the belief of the Church on the meaning of the feast: "Although the body was duly buried, it did not remain in the state of death, neither was it dissolved by decay. . . . You were transferred to your heavenly home, O Lady, Queen and Mother of God in truth."

All the feast days of Mary mark the great mysteries of her life and her part in the work of redemption. The central mystery of her life and person is her divine motherhood, celebrated both at Christmas and a week later (Jan. 1) on the feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) marks the preparation for that motherhood, so that she had the fullness of grace from the first moment of her existence, completely untouched by sin. Her whole being throbbled with divine life from the very beginning, readying her for the exalted role of mother of the Savior.

The Assumption completes God's work in her since it was not fitting that the flesh that had given life to God himself should ever undergo corruption. The Assumption is God's crowning of His work as Mary ends her earthly life and enters eternity. The feast turns our eyes in that direction, where we will follow when our earthly life is over.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
8/29-31/2025	Retrouvaille Weekend Nashville, TN	Online: https://retrouvaille.org E-mail: 3043@helpourmarriage.org Phone: 931-820-2115
9/9/2025	OCIA Classes begin PRC at 6:00 PM	Online: N/A E-mail: sfadeacon7717@gmail.com Phone: 901-493-2123
9/20/2025	Hundredfold Workshop All Saints Church - Knoxville 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Online: dioknox.org E-mail: Scan QR code on poster in Shea Hall Phone: 931-820-2115
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

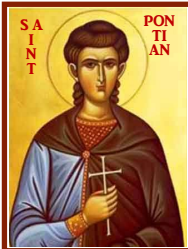
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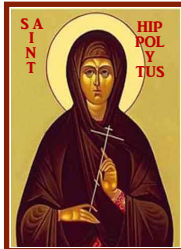
AUGUST 11



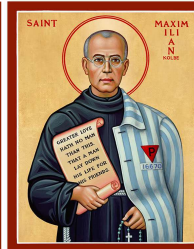
AUGUST 12



AUGUST 13



AUGUST 13



AUGUST 14



AUGUST 15

ASSUMPTION OF MARY - CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

The feast days of the Church are not just the commemoration of historical events; they do not look only to the past. They look to the present and to the future and give us an insight into our own relationship with God. The Assumption looks to eternity and gives us hope that we, too, will follow Our Lady when our life is ended.

The prayer for the feast reads: "All-powerful and ever-living God: You raised the sinless Virgin Mary, mother of your Son, body and soul, to the glory of heaven. May we see heaven as our final goal and come to share her glory."

In 1950, in the Apostolic Constitution <Munificentissimus Deus>, Pope Pius XII proclaimed the Assumption of Mary a dogma of the Catholic Church in these words: "The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heaven." With that, an ancient belief became Catholic doctrine and the Assumption was declared a truth revealed by God.

This full article can be read on EWTN's website: <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/saints/assumption-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary-814>