



**AUGUST 17, 2025
20TH 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

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday at 8:30 AM **(NO MASS ON WEDNESDAYS)**
WEEKEND MASS: Saturday 4:00PM (Vigil Mass) The Rosary is prayed 35 minutes before each Weekend Mass
Sunday 9:00AM
HOLY DAYS: Vigil Mass 6:00 PM (evening before); Holy Day Mass 9:00 AM (day of)
CONFESSION: Saturday before Mass: 3:00 - 3:40 PM (Church confessional)
Sunday before Mass: 8:15 - 8:40 AM (Church confessional)
By Appointment: 865-448-6070

PARISH MINISTRY TEAM

PASTORFr. Antonio Giraldo	GARDENS & GROUNDS Ilene Rainwater
DEACONDc. Jim Schmall	FACILITIES David Girard
OFFICE MANAGERSKatrina Allocco & Lesa Schmall	SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE JoAnne Romer-Aylward
BOOKKEEPERKathleen Halligan	PASTORAL CARE Suzie Fay
LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTORJoAnne Romer-Aylward	ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP Camilla Sorrell
DIR. OF RELIGIOUS ED.Julie Dew	COLUMBARIUM Bob Eberhardt
OCIADc. Jim Schmall	WELCOMING, EVENTS & All Parishioners
ART & ENVIRONMENTMichele Girard & Norene O'Donnell	SOCIALS TEAM (WEST)
	<u>PARISH ASSOCIATIONS:</u>
	ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: Debbie Eberhardt
	COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN: Ilene Rainwater

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 the church office at 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

Mon 8/18 8:30 AM Dc. Jim Schmall
Tue 8/19 8:30 AM Norman Weiland †
Wed 8/20 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 8/21 8:30 AM Helen & Robert Gibson †
Fri 8/22 8:30 AM Fr. Antonio
Sat 8/23 4:00 PM Dăng Thi (tee) Sinh (see) †
Sun 8/24 9:00 AM Lois Szekely †

To schedule a Mass intention, please contact the Parish Office via phone or email or in person during office hours. Mass cards are available at the church office. 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:

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

*Pope St. John Paul II
1920 - 2005*

*“From the Eucharist
comes strength to
live the Christian life
and zeal to share that life
with others.”*

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon 8/18	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue 8/19		
Wed 8/20	5:00 PM	SVdP - PRC
Thu 8/21		
Fri 8/22		
Sat 8/23	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun 8/24	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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



TRANSFORMATION, SELF-DISCOVERY AND PERSONAL GROWTH

I have always been impressed with the response of those who volunteered to serve our country. My father served proudly for 22 years in the U.S. Navy. As a young boy, we travelled around a lot. We made new friends wherever we lived, and some of my dad's coworkers I learned had served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Some of them would tell stories of their war experiences leaving out the graphic parts. But most of them never talked about it. It was not until I saw the movie "Saving Private Ryan" that I began to understand why so many are reluctant to talk about their war experiences. The opening scenes of that movie depicting the initial landing on the beaches of Normandy are not only graphically realistic,

but they are emotionally horrific. The movie was entertaining but also left viewers uneasy about the harsh realities of war, including its futility, loss of life, and the difficult actions soldiers face. War's uncomfortable truths are often avoided, as we prefer not to confront the darker reasons behind conflicts between nations.

We often prefer hearing about God's love rather than confronting our shortcomings. Facing spiritual truths can be uncomfortable, but it's necessary for growth. Today's readings remind us that genuine spirituality involves more than just seeking comfort. Jeremiah's message was one the people did not want to hear so they threw him in a cistern. Let's shut up the messenger so we can continue to live without hearing how we need to change our lives.

Individuals may avoid confronting challenges under the assumption that maintaining their current spiritual practices will suffice for a positive relationship with God. While there is a desire to find satisfaction in one's religious efforts, it is also understood internally that greater commitment and action may be necessary.

The words of Jesus are enduring and continue to encourage reflection on the significance of his death and resurrection. He stated, "I have come to light a fire on earth." This statement serves not merely as an invitation but as a challenge to embrace his promise of baptism with the Spirit and fire. According to Christian belief, Jesus' mission was to fulfill God's promise to inspire zeal and transformation in people. This includes the belief that Jesus was sent to bring the Spirit, understood as the source of love and personal change. The Spirit is described as encouraging individuals to become disciples and experience personal growth. The text raises a reflective question about openness to this process of transformation and self-discovery.

There is no middle ground here; we cannot ignore it or avoid a response. We cannot be like those who avoided the message by removing the prophet. What we do know from the words of Jesus is we can expect rejection, disagreement and even animosity from those who will not accept Jesus in their lives.



Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you,
though all things pass, God does not change.

Patience wins all things.

But he lacks nothing who possesses God;
for God alone suffices.



- St. Teresa of Avila

CATECHISM

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BY: David Quinn

RCIA Now OCIA

William Shakespeare once posed the question “What is in a name?” For the Catholic Church, a name communicates a lot. We’ve had Councils gathered to discuss the proper name for Mary, which was determined to be the Mother of God (Theotokos). Councils on the proper word to describe the relationship between the Father and the Son, which is consubstantial. A name or a word can have deep meaning behind it.

For decades, the Church would bring adults into the faith through a process called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Adults are defined as anyone beyond the age of reason, not just someone over the age of 18. These adults will either be catechumens or candidates. Catechumens are those adults who have not been baptized in the proper form (in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) and need to be baptized upon entering the Catholic Faith. Candidates are adults who have been properly baptized.

The candidates and catechumens attend regular sessions for months to gain a true understanding of the Catholic Church and to deepen their relationship with God. Generally, their journey climaxes at the Easter Vigil, where they would receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion. This is always a beautiful Mass and worth attending, even if you are not a candidate or catechumen. This past Easter Vigil, we had six people join the Catholic Church at St. Francis of Assisi.

The Church decided several years ago to restructure RCIA slightly but to also give it a more appropriate name. Now, it is called the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). The subtle name change is to acknowledge that RCIA actually involved multiple rites to join the Church. When a process in the Church involves multiple rites, it is called an order.

While the decision to move from RCIA to OCIA was made a few years ago, it was up to each diocese to determine when to make the official switch. Bishops considered things like time for the parishes to get the proper OCIA materials, costs to make the switch, and a few other factors. Bishop Beckman has decided this is the year for the Diocese of Knoxville to adopt OCIA.

In September, we are starting our first OCIA class. We already have about six or seven people expressing interest. If you know someone who might have an interest in joining the Catholic Church, please have that person reach out to Deacon Jim for more information. Additionally, current Catholics may attend OCIA to help them better understand the Church and its teachings - it’s not just for converts.



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 said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it be accomplished! Your gift to the Society to assist those suffering in poverty will help set the earth on fire with the of God's love.

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



HELP FILL OUR SVDP PANTRY

Are you a BJ's Member? If so, would you like to help fill our SVdP pantry too? Below is a list of products we use from BJ's (but of course we will take any non-perishable item!). These are some of the items we have identified as being a good value:

- | | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Canned Chicken | Paper Towels | Bath Tissues | Toothbrushes | Ramen Noodle Soup |
| Macaroni & Cheese | Saltine Crackers | Canned Tuna | Toothpaste | Chips (individual size) |
| Peanut Butter Crackers | Bar Soap | Kleenex | Microwave Popcorn | Canned Vienna Sausages |

Purchased items can be placed in the St. Vincent de Paul food basket located in Shea Hall. We appreciate all you do to help us help those in need – Thank You!



Saturday, September 20, 2025 - 6:00 PM Knoxville Catholic High School

Join Catholic Charities of East Tennessee for a fun-filled evening of dinner and square-dancing at the 2nd annual Barn Dance on Sept. 20 at 6 p.m. at the Knoxville Catholic High School Gymnasium. Come in your best country attire and BYOB.

100% of funds raised will benefit CCETN's A Loving Option Adoption program, and will provide necessary support to mothers facing crisis or unplanned pregnancies.

Please purchase tickets by September 6th on the diocesan website: <https://dioknox.org/events/ccetn-barn-dance>.



DMI SURVEY RESULTS AND FOLLOW UP



Back in the Spring, Bishop Beckman asked all the parishes to participate in the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey so he could get a more detailed understanding of each parish within the Diocese. Besides the Bishop gaining greater insight, it turns out we got greater insight into our parish as well. The DMI Survey tool also provides the capability for parishes to plan improvement opportunities based on the data received.

While the surveys were being collated, Dc. Jim formed a small team/committee of parishioners to evaluate the reports from the Survey and to put together a plan for moving forward and how best to share the survey results with our parish family. The team has attended several diocesan-level webinars and we have been going through our data for the past couple of months. We are now ready to share with our parish family some of the highlights and some of our thought for moving forward.

For this type of survey, the results are considered pretty accurate if you get at least 20% of the parish responding. We were right at 20% with 29 responses. Based on the demographic information, the responses were pretty representative of our parish, with roughly 40% of responses coming from people who attend Saturday Mass regularly and 60% coming from regular Sunday Mass attendees. The age brackets also seemed consistent with our parish profile, trending more towards an older parish.

Overall, the data shows that we are doing well as parish in terms of satisfying certain needs, with large percentages of people responding "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" to various survey questions. The organization (Catholic Leadership Institute - CLI) that operates the DMI Survey tool recommends we focus on areas where people tended to be neutral or dissatisfied to see if we can move percentages towards the "Strongly Agree" or "Agree."

Over the next several weeks, we will be sharing reports from the DMI Survey tool for you to examine and determine if you have additional questions. We will be providing:

- (1) a small supply of paper handout after Masses. These paper handouts will remain available to all parishioners on the table in the church vestibule. However, due to the cost of printing, we are encouraging parishioners to view these reports online on our website under the DMI survey icon on the home page.
- (2) online access to the reports on our website hopefully by next week.
- (3) some "town hall" type sessions after Masses if people would like to drill down into specific results from the survey.

Finally, we are going to be doing a follow-up survey of our own to clarify the results of certain responses, helping us understand if people responded because the parish was not providing something or if people were just disinterested. The follow-up survey will be conducted through our own website, though we will be providing paper copies to complete for parishioners who prefer not to go online.

We believe our initial efforts will be in the areas of bible study, spiritual direction, and retreats. Of course, that could change as we get clarification with our follow-up surveys. We hope you will take the time to complete future surveys so that St. Francis of Assisi parish can be of greater help in everyone's journey to a closer relationship with God and to gain eternal salvation.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.

MATTHEW 28:19

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 month 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.



OCIA AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

What is OCIA? (Formerly RCIA) OCIA, the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, is a process through which adults become members of the Roman Catholic Church. This consists of steps, periods, and rites that make up the model of Christian Initiation as restored in the second Vatican Council.

If you or anyone you know are interested in exploring the Catholic Church as your church home or you have been sitting in the pew next to your Catholic spouse for years wondering what you have to do to become Catholic, or you are a practicing Catholic just wanting to learn more about your faith, please consider this a personal invitation to join us.

Classes will begin on Tuesday September 9, 2025 - 6:00 PM.

We will meet here at St. Francis of Assisi in Townsend in the Parish Resource Center (PRC) which is the center of the three white church campus buildings (The church, the PRC, and the Rectory). Classes will run for about an hour and a half.

If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Jim. All are welcome!

Peace, Deacon Jim ❖ sfadeacon7717@gmail.com ❖ 901-493-2123

UPCOMING EVENTS

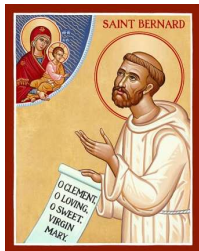
DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
8/29-31/25	Retrouvaille Weekend Nashville, TN	Online: https://retrouvaille.org E-mail: 3043@helpourmarriage.org Phone: 931-820-2115
9/9/25	OCIA Classes begin PRC at 6:00 PM	Online: N/A E-mail: sfadeacon7717@gmail.com Phone: 901-493-2123
9/20/25	Hundredfold Workshop All Saints Church - Knoxville 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Online: dioknox.org E-mail: Scan QR code on poster in Shea Hall Phone: 931-820-2115
9/20/25	CCETN Barn Dance 6:00 PM Knoxville Catholic High School	Online: dioknox.org E-mail: N/A Phone: N/A
9/20-10/9/25	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
9/27/25	Emma Fradd - Unplugged Concert Diocese of Knoxville Young Adult Ministry	Online: dioknox.org E-mail: Scan QR code on poster in Shea Hall Phone: N/A
10/16/25	WEST Meeting Noon in the PRC	Online: N/A E-Mail: stfrancistownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070
12/14/25	Parish Christmas Party Tremont Lodge - Townsend, TN	Online: N/A E-Mail: stfrancistownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070

SAINTS BE PRAISED!

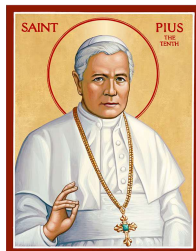


St. John Eudes

AUGUST 19



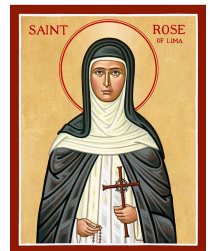
AUGUST 20



AUGUST 21



AUGUST 22



AUGUST 23