



SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

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 9/15 8:30 AM Kay Walker †
Tue 9/16 8:30 AM Ralph Peychal †
Wed 9/17 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 9/18 8:30 AM Jeanette Kraehmer †
Fri 9/19 8:30 AM Yvonne & John Peychal
Sat 9/20 4:00 PM Mary Anne Ackerman †
Sun 9/21 9:00 AM Elizabeth Ann Kirkpatrick †

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, Stephanie Romer, John & Maria Bermudes, Michael Slater, Rocky Brach, Dennis Richards, Jeff Herzog, Marion McCaughey, Sue Wood, Sue Corsini, Adela Maurer, Bill Irby, Teresa Williams, Jeffrey Garrison, Ann Day, Ed Welsh, Thomas Fay, Sofia Graziano, Dale DuRussel, Suzie Fay, Beaux Stephen Crane, Linda Gronberg-Quinn

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!



SANCTUARY FLOWERS:

The sanctuary flowers are in memory of Molly Pickett given by Gail and Eirc 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!



ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon 9/15	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue 9/16	6:00 PM	OCIA - PRC
Wed 9/17	5:00 PM	SVdP - PRC
Thu 9/18		
Fri 9/19		
Sat 9/20	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun 9/21	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

*Mother Angelica
1923 - 2016*

*"I look upon the host
whenever I am at Mass,
speechless and struck with awe
at such humility."*



Eucharisticrevival.org

ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP



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



THE CROSS

The name of this Feast of the Triumph of the Cross has been translated in the past as the “exaltation” of the Cross or, worse, the “invention” of the Cross. It commemorates the finding of the true Cross by St. Helena and is a time for reflection on this ancient symbol of our faith.

Each of the world’s major religions has its own symbol. Judaism is represented by the Star of David, Islam by the Crescent Moon, and Christianity by the Cross. Nobody is certain of the origins of the Star of David or of the Crescent Moon. But we all know the origins of the

Cross. We can point to the time, place and event from which it came.

This is one of those feasts where if it falls on a Sunday, the readings and prayers of that feast take precedence over the Sunday readings. The color is different as well. Father and Deacon wear red. That’s how important it is. It is a reminder of the sacrifice that Christ made for us.

The Cross has a clear origin in an event that redefines human history and life. Like other symbols, it carries complex meanings - it can signify human cruelty, indifference, and the impact of sin. For many, it represents Jesus’ love and his total surrender to God’s will. Ultimately, the Cross holds different significance for each person.

Early Christians avoided displaying the cross due to the ongoing threat of crucifixion. Once crucifixion was banned and Christianity legalized, the cross began to symbolize the faith - first depicting the Risen Christ, and later, during the Middle Ages, emphasizing Jesus’ humanity through images of his suffering on the cross.

Interestingly, the famous cross of San Damiano that was so important in St. Francis’ life, marks a transition from the cross of glory to one showing forth the suffering of Christ. Today, we see crosses of all kinds, made of every material. We see them on church steeples, alongside highways, painted on windows of storefront churches and worn around people’s necks. They are found in homes, cars and hospital rooms. All these crosses are not nostalgic reminders of a past event. They are venerated as a source of continuing power to comfort and to give strength, peace and grace. There is something profoundly familiar about the Cross.

Just as the bronze serpent in Numbers served as a means of healing, Christ turned an instrument of death into a source of life; his suffering brought about our salvation and marked a new beginning.

When performing the Sign of the Cross, it is important to approach the gesture with intention and reflection, rather than out of routine. The act serves as an expression of faith in Christ’s protection and hope that adversity may yield positive outcomes, as well as a reminder of the compassion we are encouraged to extend to others. Keeping a cross nearby can serve as a valuable symbol; it has been described as a powerful teacher, illustrating the principle that life can emerge from hardship.



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



Apart from the Cross there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven.



- St. Rose of Lima

CATECHISM

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BY: David Quinn

PURGATORY

It is very straightforward on what happens at death. We face our Particular Judgment before the Lord. It is determined at that time if we go to Heaven or to Hell based on the righteousness of our lives and our relationship with God at the time that we died. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God tells us how to live appropriately, giving us commands by which to live. Actually, it might be more appropriate to call what happens at our death "Particular Choice."

We live our lives deciding whether we are going to live in accordance with God's commands or live separate from God. Those choices are what actually determine whether we go to Heaven or to Hell. We make the final determination, not God.

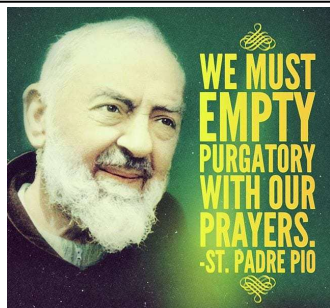
For those that choose the path to Heaven, some are not ready for immediate entrance into Heaven. They definitely are not bound for Hell but they still lack the purity to enter into God's presence right away. They need a little time to get rid of those impurities that are attached to their souls. The Church calls that period of purification Purgatory.

The analogy I like to use for this: When I was growing up and we would visit our grandparents on the farm in North Carolina. Our grandmother would call us in for dinner. As we would run to the house, our grandmother would tell us that we couldn't come in for dinner until we went to the back porch and cleaned off. It wasn't that we were going to be denied dinner, just delayed it a bit while we get that farm dirt off. When getting cleaned up, we even might help each other out by knocking excess dirt off our backs. Once clean enough, we were allowed into the kitchen for dinner.

This roughly shows why Purgatory is not an end state for us, which is what some people seem to think Catholic teaching says. Purgatory is an intermediate step some people may need to get rid of their impurities. Not everyone will need to go through Purgatory, as they may have passed in a state of purity. We pray for people's time in Purgatory to be lessened in hopes they can get to their heavenly reward sooner. Kind of like cleaning the dirt off each other's backs when trying to enter the house.

Purgatory is not a state of punishment. While there is a burning process involved to remove impurities from the soul, it is similar to the process of refining precious metals, like gold and silver. St. Paul describes this process in 1 Corinthians and Hebrews, letting people know that they cannot enter God's presence until purified but it is a matter of *when* we enter heaven and not *if*.

This purification process is very consistent with how people prepared to approach God throughout Scripture. Moses was to remove his sandals before approaching the burning bush. People were to be ritually cleaned before entering the Temple. Mary was born without Original Sin to prepare to become the New Ark of the Covenant. Purgatory is the ultimate purification process on our heavenly journey. Our prayers aid those who have passed before us, helping to remove the impurities and shorten their time in Purgatory. Please continue to pray for those have passed before us and rejoice that their entry into heaven is assured.



PRAYER FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus,
in union with the Masses said throughout the world today,
for all the holy souls in purgatory,
for sinners everywhere,
for sinners in the universal church,
those in my own home and within my family.
Amen.



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.

With Fall right on our heels that can only mean one thing: the start of another year of OCIA! 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 join us!

Classes are held every Tuesday in the PRC at 6:00 PM.

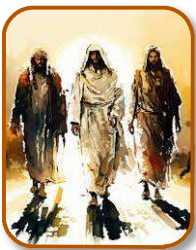
Last April at the great Easter Vigil, we welcomed six people into the Catholic faith through the Sacraments of Initiation! I have had many parishioners ask if it is ok for them to attend OCIA classes. The short answer is **YES!** If you are a practicing Catholic in good standing and just want to learn more about your faith, then OCIA is the perfect place to do that.

Also, we are always looking for Sponsors and Godparents for our new candidates and catechumens. And whether or not you become a sponsor or godparent, please know that as Catholics in good standing, it is incumbent upon us to help these people on their journey of faith. Please feel free to begin this journey with them and help them on their way.

We have a good team in place to help these folks on their journey (Some from last year's crop of Neophytes)! We are truly blessed at this Little Church on the Little River.

We will meet on Tuesday evenings 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.

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



CATHOLIC MEN'S EMMAUS RETREAT COMING TO EAST TN APRIL, 2026

A Catholic Men's Emmaus Retreat is a three-day spiritual getaway for men, inspired by the biblical account of Jesus walking with disciples to Emmaus, where they didn't recognize Him at first but later encountered Him at supper. These retreats provide a safe, grace-filled environment for men to deepen their relationship with Christ, grow in their faith through prayer and reflection, connect with other men on a similar journey, and find personal spiritual growth. The experience is led by lay people and aims to help men recognize the living Christ in their own lives and become more vital members of their parish community.

St. Augustine Catholic Church in Signal Mountain, TN is organizing this retreat and they are looking for Emmaus Brothers who would like to be a part of the team. Please contact Michael Hart at 423-414-4532 if you are interested in being a part of this effort.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today's Gospel reminds us of God's great love for each of, a love so great that He sent His son not to condemn the world, but to save it, so that we might have eternal life. Is there a neighbor or friend of yours who is in temporary need because of a loss of a job or an illness? Please leave a message for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul...we want to help!

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 SEPTEMBER "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"

RICE A RONI & PASTA SIDES



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 |

Please place your purchased items in the St. Vincent de Paul food basket located in Shea Hall.

Thank You for always being there to help us help others!



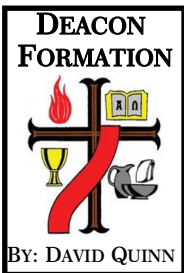
CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH CHRISTMAS BOX OF JOY PROGRAM

Our St. Francis of Assisi Council of Catholic Women (CCW) group is once again sponsoring the Cross Catholic Outreach Christmas Box of Joy project. A Box of Joy is a Christmas shoe-box that is donated and packed with toys, clothing, school supplies and other treasured items by U.S. parishes, schools and groups. Each child who receives a Box of Joy also receives a rosary and a booklet in their own language that tells the story of Jesus. Boxes of Joy are sent to children in developing countries like Haiti, Malawi and the Dominican Republic and provide hope to children in need: Each gift represents Christ's love, and may be the only Christmas gift they receive.

You can fill your own Christmas Box of Joy (available in the PRC or at the St. Clare Gift Shop) or purchase a box online at <https://crosscatholic.org/box-of-joy/> and then click on "Donate a Box of Joy Online." If you choose to fill your own box, please return the box to the church by October 31st so that we can get them to the Diocese drop-off point. CCW will pay the \$9.00 shipping fee. If you have any questions, please contact Ilene Rainwater at 865-748-1873.



Donate a Box of Joy Online



BECOMING A DEACON – LITURGY OF THE HOURS

To assist our deacon formation members in our prayer life, they introduced us to the Liturgy of the Hours (LOTH). Often referred to as the daily prayer of the Catholic Church, LOTH is a series of prayers said throughout the day. This continues the Jewish tradition seen in the Old Testament.

Different ordained ministers have different requirements regarding when to recite the LOTH each day. Permanent Deacons must say the Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer each day. Whenever we have a formation weekend, we say Friday Evening Prayer, Saturday Morning Prayer, Saturday Evening Prayer, and Sunday Morning Prayer together with small reflections by whoever is leading the session.

The 2022 formation class started doing Evening Prayer via Zoom calls on Sunday through Thursday evenings to help them practice LOTH more frequently than once a month. We started to join their calls to help us learn Evening Prayer. After several weeks of doing these calls, we stopped focusing on the structure of Evening Prayer, transitioning from saying Evening Prayer to praying Evening Prayer.



DMI SURVEY RESULTS AND FOLLOW UP

The organization that facilitates the DMI Survey tool - Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) - produces 10 reports from this survey which are grouped into 3 categories as identified below. All 10 reports are now available for your viewing on our website. On our website's home page click on the DMI box and then click on the report that you are interested in viewing.

Custom & Context:

Demographics
Strengths & Opportunities
Key Leader Perspective

Beliefs, Effectiveness, and Drivers for Big Outcomes:

Key Drivers
Belief in Core Catholic Teaching
Effectiveness of Parish Support

Four Factors of a Thriving Parish:

Leadership Indicators
Sunday Experience
Spiritual Practices
Missionary

If you would like paper copies of these reports, please print the reports from the website and help us save on printing costs. A small supply of paper reports are available on the table in the church vestibule for those who are not able to or prefer not to access this information online.

Within the next few weeks, we will be offering some "Town Hall" type meetings in Shea Hall after BOTH weekend Masses to answer any questions you might have regarding the survey and the resulting reports. We urge you to take an active part in the process so that we thoroughly understand the needs of our parishioners and move forward accordingly.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.

MATTHEW 28:19

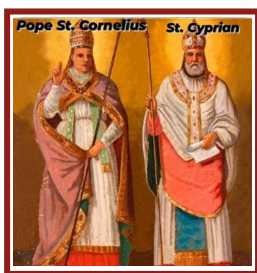
UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
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!



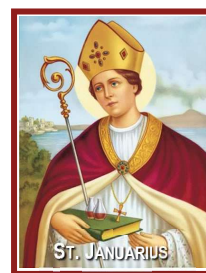
SEPTEMBER 15



SEPTEMBER 16



SEPTEMBER 17



SEPTEMBER 19



STs. ANDREW KIM TAE-GÖN,
PAUL CHÔNG HA-SANG,
AND COMPANIONS,
MARTYRS
SEPTEMBER 20