



SEPTEMBER 21, 2025  
25<sup>TH</sup> 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

**PASTOR** .....Fr. Antonio Giraldo  
**DEACON**.....Dc. Jim Schmall  
**OFFICE MANAGERS** .....Katrina Allocco & Lesa Schmall  
**BOOKKEEPER** .....Kathleen Halligan  
**LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTOR**.....JoAnne Romer-Aylward  
**DIR. OF RELIGIOUS ED.** .....Julie Dew  
**OCIA**.....Dc. Jim Schmall  
**ART & ENVIRONMENT**.....Michele Girard & Norene O'Donnell  
**GARDENS & GROUNDS**..... Ilene Rainwater  
**FACILITIES** ..... David Girard  
**SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE** ..... JoAnne Romer-Aylward  
**PASTORAL CARE**..... Suzie Fay  
**ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP** ..... Camilla Sorrell  
**COLUMBARIUM** ..... Bob Eberhardt  
**WELCOMING, EVENTS &** ..... All Parishioners  
**SOCIALS TEAM (WEST)**  
**PARISH ASSOCIATIONS:**  
**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.  
**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 [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

**Mon 9/22** 8:30 AM Nicholas C. Provenzo †  
**Tue 9/23** 8:30 AM Grace Harth †  
**Wed 9/24** **NO MORNING MASS**  
**Thu 9/25** 8:30 AM George Szekely †  
**Fri 9/26** 8:30 AM Christopher Bronson †  
**Sat 9/27** 4:00 PM Gary Reif †  
**Sun 9/28** 9:00 AM Normand Messier †

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 Du-Russel, Marcus Bolte, 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, Ed Welsh, Thomas Fay, Sofia Graziano, Dale DuRussel, Suzie Fay, Beaux Stephen Crane, Linda Gronberg-Quinn, Robert Schumacher, German Giraldo

### SANCTUARY CANDLE:



The sanctuary candle is lit in memory of Nicholas C. Provenzo given by Camilla Sorrell. 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!

### **ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

**Mon 9/22** 9:00 AM Church & Hall Cleaning  
**Tue 9/23** 6:00 PM OCIA - PRC  
**Wed 9/24**  
**Thu 9/25**  
**Fri 9/26**  
**Sat 9/27** 4:00 PM Vigil Mass  
**Sun 9/28** 9:00 AM Sunday Mass

### 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!

### **INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST**

*St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)*  
1887 - 1968

*“Stay with me, Lord, for it is necessary to have You present so that I do not forget You. You know how easily I abandon You. Stay with me, Lord, for I desire to love You ever more, and to be in Your company always. Stay with me, Lord, for You are my light, and without You I am in darkness.”*



### **ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP**



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



## USE THE BLESSINGS GOD HAS GIVEN US

Seven hundred fifty years before Christ, Israel was enjoying a great time of financial and material prosperity. But spiritually they were bankrupt. In their prosperity they lost the focus on God. The Sabbath and the new moon were days of both prayer and rest. The Israelites resented this interruption in what they considered most important in life: making money. They didn't record honest weights, thereby cheating the suppliers and their customers. They even exploited their customers by mixing useless materials in with the products they wanted to sell – such as mixing chaff with the wheat. The world has changed a lot since then, but in many ways human nature seems to remain the same.

Sometimes, we might not be clear about the point Jesus was trying to make when he told a parable or gave a sermon. The parable of the shrewd manager can be one of these cases. The rich man in today's gospel has heard that his employee was taking advantage of him. Whether the employee was stealing from the rich man or not isn't the main point - although he probably was. And whether the employee reducing the debt that various businesses owed his master was honest or dishonest is not the point of the parable either. The main point is that the employee was clever and wasted no time in planning for a secure future for himself.

During Jesus' time, the type of steward described in the passage often earned his wages from the interest he charged the master's customers. By reducing his master's debtor's bills, the steward was not cheating; he was reducing his own profit, in order to gain friends, who could help him start a new life.

Rather than commending the steward's seeming dishonesty, Jesus was actually highlighting his ability to think quickly and overcome major obstacles. We might be tempted to give up when we encounter obstacles to daily prayer, evangelization, or reaching out to our neighbors. But with the example of the shrewd manager, we can take comfort that Jesus wants to help us find creative solutions to these obstacles.

Jesus tells us, we have to be just as clever in planning for a secure future for ourselves, and it's not just for the few years we spend on this earth that we have to provide, but also for our time in eternity. Jesus is constantly reminding us that material things can make us feel so secure in this life that we forget about what is most important, our eternal life. That was the point of today's first reading from the Prophet Amos. The prosperous era that the Israelites were enjoying 750 years before Christ led them to forget about the God who has blessed them so richly. When they lost touch with God, this led to moral decline of the nation and its eventual collapse. Our life in this world is temporary. Eternity is forever. Jesus is telling us today to use the blessings God has given us to help us get closer to God and not let our possessions become a God in themselves. We can become just as shrewd as this steward, asking God to give uncommon wisdom and the courage to take risks in new situations.



## Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



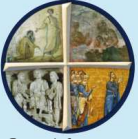
I will guide you along the best path for your life. I will give you counsel to follow.  
Heed me.



- Psalm 32:8

## CATECHISM

ORNER



BY: David Quinn

### THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

The Catholic Church is very pro-life. When there is a question about how to deal with human life, the Church will always answer in favor of life. Some people describe this position as supporting life from womb to tomb. In other words, it goes from the moment of conception to natural death.

The Church has made it very clear that it stands against the death penalty, euthanasia, and abortion. It wants people to understand that life is a gift from God and must be protected. The Church takes a very black and white approach to these topics that modern society wants to make gray.

While not specifically stated this way, the Church has a simple equation for addressing life issues. Sanctity of life is greater than or equal to the dignity of life. Ideally, sanctity and dignity align with each other, meaning there is no difference between the Church's position and modern society. However, pro-life issues highlight many misalignments of modern society.

Dignity of life is temporal in nature, dealing with life here on earth. It reflects what we experience in our lifetime. The Church emphasizes the dignity of life. The Church's positions on social justice focus on dignity of life, echoing what Jesus told us in the Gospels. We are to welcome the stranger, give food to the hungry and drink to the thirsty, cloth the naked, visit the sick and prisoners. We are to always side with the oppressed and not support the oppressors. We are to take care of each other and unselfishly contribute to the welfare of others.

Sanctity of life is eternal in nature, dealing with our spiritual life now and after we die. It reflects what we need in our relationship with God and how we gain our salvation by living according to Jesus' teachings. We must live our lives in a way that looks beyond our time on earth. We must also live in a way that helps others to achieve salvation. This thinking goes beyond just what happens during our life time.

That doesn't make life's decisions easier. When you see an elderly person living with diseases like Alzheimer's or cancer, living with organs failing, living with great pain, it is natural to want to ease their pain. We want to take actions to deal with the dignity of these people who are suffering, bringing an immediate end to their pain. We want to be compassionate people. While as well intended as people mean to be, these actions do not address how precious life is or help us achieve salvation.

There are other temporary situations in life where people think the Catholic Church's positions are not compassionate. Again, they are focusing on the here and now while the Church is focusing on eternity. We need to help others to understand that sanctity of life is always the greater good for people.

The Church teaches that when we help people who are suffering, we receive grace. This helps us in our pursuit of salvation. We are not just helping others but we are helping ourselves. Additionally, there is nothing more compassionate or caring than to assist others in achieving eternal salvation. That's the beauty of focusing on sanctity of life.





## 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! Last April at the great Easter Vigil, we welcomed six people into the Catholic faith through the Sacraments of

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

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

**2025**  
**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**FRIDAY OCTOBER 3**  
**RESERVA LA FECHA!**  
**VIERNES 3 DE OCTUBRE**  
**Rosario Multilingüe**  
**Multilingual Rosary**  
Después del Rosario acompañanos en la Cancillería para un refrigerio internacional.  
After the Rosario join us at the Chancery for international refreshments.  
**7:00 PM**  
CATHEDRAL OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS  
711 S. Northshore Dr. Knoxville TN 37919  
<https://dioknox.org/registro-de-rosario-multilingue>

FOR LOS INMIGRANTES Y REFUGIADOS/ FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

FAVOR DE REGISTRARSE USANDO ESTE CÓDIGO QR O CÍTO WEB/ PLEASE RSVP BY USING THIS QR CODE OR LINK

## CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH CHRISTMAS BOX OF JOY PROGRAM



Unassembled boxes and accompanying information are available on the table beneath the TV set in Shea Hall. You can fill your own Christmas Box of Joy or

purchase a box online at <https://crosscatholic.org/box-of-joy/> and then click on "Donate a Box of Joy Online."

If you have any questions, please contact Ilene Rainwater at 865-748-1873.





## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel we see that prudent decisiveness means that we recognize that all our choices in daily living are really choices for eternal life. Admission into heaven is something money cannot buy. The only currency that has any value to secure our entrance is that of love. As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, know that you are a sign of God's love to those who are suffering.

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.

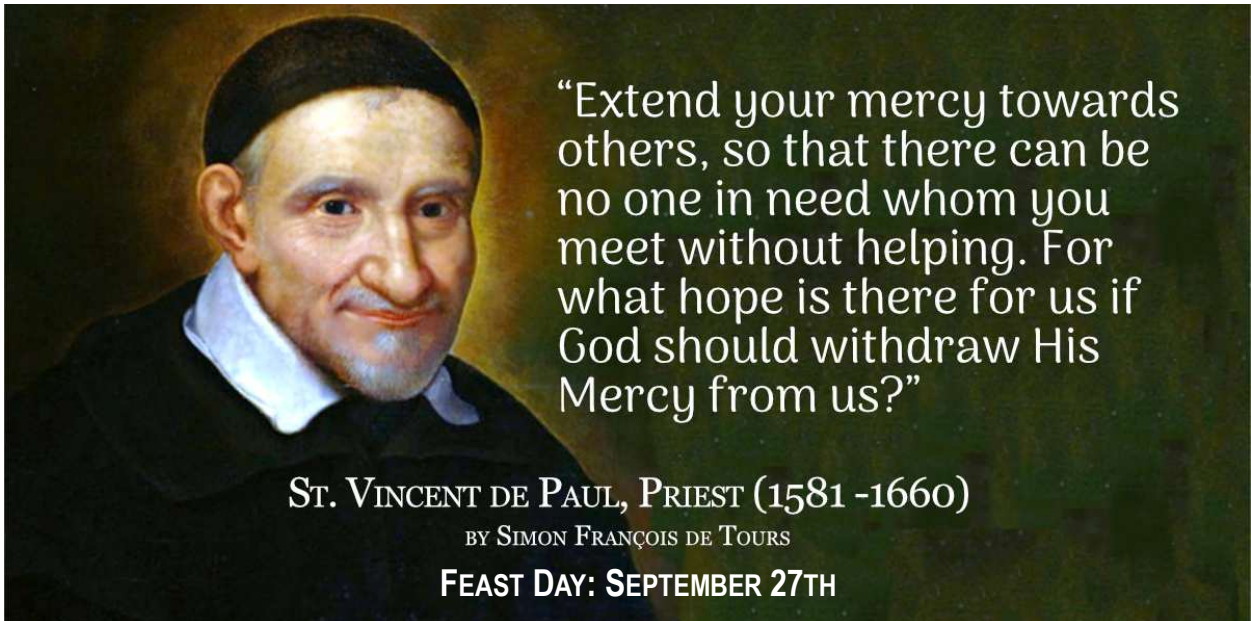
SVDP meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Wednesdays of the month at 5:00 PM  
in the PRC. All are welcome!

***Thank You***

for your continued support of SVDP!

### SVDP SEPTEMBER "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"

#### RICE A RONI & PASTA SIDES



“Extend your mercy towards others, so that there can be no one in need whom you meet without helping. For what hope is there for us if God should withdraw His Mercy from us?”

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, PRIEST (1581 -1660)**

BY SIMON FRANÇOIS DE TOURS

**FEAST DAY: SEPTEMBER 27TH**

### ASSISTED LISTENING SERVICE



Did you know that we offer assisted listening devices for Masses here at St. Francis of Assisi? Well.... We do.... And all you need to do is ask an usher for a receiver when you enter the church.

Our current system offers 4 receivers, but the demand for more has been increasing so we are looking at upgrading our system in the very near future. One parishioner who has recently begun using an assisted listening device for Masses said “This is the first time I have been able to hear the priest, the readings, and the music in over 3 years! It has helped me so much!”



# COME! FEAST WITH ME!

St. Francis' feast day is celebrated on October 4<sup>th</sup>, but we will be feasting in celebration with a  
**Parish Potluck**  
on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>!  
Sign up on the sheets in Shea Hall.

## 10/5 - SHEA HALL 4:00 PM

### DMI SURVEY RESULTS AND FOLLOW UP



The organization that facilitates the DMI Survey tool - Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) - produces 10 reports from this survey and 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.

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.

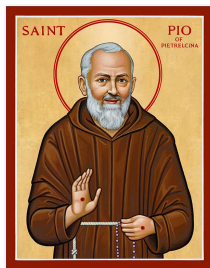
*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.*

MATTHEW 28:19

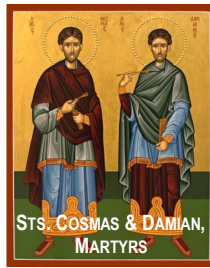
# UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
9/27/25	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
10/3/25	Multilingual Rosary Cathedral - 7:00 PM	Online: dioknox.org E-mail: Scan QR code on poster in Shea Hall Phone: N/A
10/5/25	Feast with St. Francis Parish Potluck Shea Hall 4:00 PM signup in Shea Hall	Online: N/A E-mail: stfrancistownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070
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
April, 2026	Catholic Men's Emmaus Retreat St. Augustine Catholic Church Signal Mountain, TN	Online: N/A E-Mail: N/A Phone: 423-414-4532 (Michael Hart)

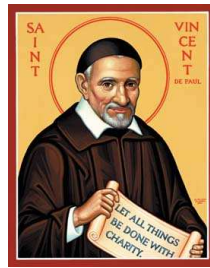
## SAINTS BE PRAISED!



SEPTEMBER 23



SEPTEMBER 26



SEPTEMBER 27