



SEPTEMBER 28, 2025
26TH 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.

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 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 9/29 8:30 AM Joe & Samantha Eberhardt
Tue 9/30 8:30 AM Charles Fiorella †
Wed 10/1 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 10/2 8:30 AM David Roth †
Fri 10/3 8:30 AM Norman L. Weiland
Sat 10/4 4:00 PM Donna Seiz
Sun 10/5 9:00 AM John Adams †

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:

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 9/29 9:00 AM Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue 9/30 6:00 PM OCIA - Shea Hall
Wed 10/1 5:00 PM SVdP - PRC
Thu 10/2
Fri 10/3 9:00 AM 1st Friday Adoration
Sat 10/4 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
Sun 10/5 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. Ignatius of Loyola
1491 - 1556*

“One of the most admirable effects of Holy Communion is to preserve the soul from sin, and to help those who fall through weakness to rise again. It is much more profitable, then, to approach this divine Sacrament with love, respect, and confidence, than to remain away through an excess of fear and scrupulosity.”



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP



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



SHALOM

When we come together as a community, we see the greatness of the Lord because we are his people. Christ teaches us through stories, so we grow in self-awareness. In the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, Jesus contrasts a wealthy man, dressed in purple and living in luxury, with Lazarus, who is poor and ignored, unable to get enough even from scraps.

When Jesus conveyed this story, many listeners initially interpreted it as suggesting that the Rich Man was favored by God: abundance signified virtue, while hardship indicated wrongdoing. However, Jesus intended to highlight a crucial distinction. Ultimately, Lazarus is taken by angels to Abraham's side, whereas the Rich Man experiences suffering in Hades. Through this narrative, Jesus communicates that God's presence can be found in the routine aspects of life; the kingdom of God is evident where it is perceived, felt, and anticipated. Thus, Jesus encourages vigilance, reminding us that God's reign is present even amid daily circumstances.

It can be argued that if the Rich Man had greater awareness, his actions may have been different. According to the narrative, the reign of God was represented by an individual who appeared as a homeless person with health issues. The Rich Man did not take the opportunity to participate in this experience. In this context, understanding the reign of God involves recognizing people like Lazarus in everyday life from a new perspective. Questions for reflection include: How does the reign of God influence your life? And in what ways do you respond?

People often overlook the various forms of wealth they possess that go beyond monetary value. These include strong relationships with family and friends, opportunities for education, enjoyment of leisure activities, and support for personal interests. It can be helpful to reflect on how these advantages might contribute positively to the wider community. Focusing on personal growth, commitment to studies, recreation, and building meaningful friendships are all valuable pursuits.

In many respects, we can all be compared to Lazarus; each individual faces challenges, requires support, seeks healing, and inevitably makes mistakes. Within our liturgical practices, peace is extended among participants, though its true significance may not always be fully understood. Common phrases such as "Peace of the Lord be with you" are easily spoken, yet the depth of their meaning warrants reflection. In Jewish tradition, "Shalom" serves as both a greeting on arrival and departure, symbolizing an aspiration for unity and harmony within creation. When Jesus offered "Shalom," he was inviting others to embrace a sense of harmony like the harmonious chords of music - a metaphor for becoming familiar with the concert of life. Ultimately, this peace embodies the ideal of unity.

Consider reflecting on where the presence of God manifests in your daily life and how you might respond. Sharing peace and Shalom with others aligns us with God, His word, and the Eucharist. We are called to serve as instruments, offering renewal and extending Shalom to those who seek it.



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



I have a gallon of milk in my 'fridge and a dollar in my pocket - I am indeed a wealthy man.

- Mike Romer
1964 - 2014



CATECHISM

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BY: David Quinn

INDULGENCES

Typically, when someone uses the word “indulgence” in a non-spiritual context, they mean they are treating themselves in some luxurious manner or giving in to something that is not good for them. That person is perhaps taking a “cheat day” on their diet to enjoy an ice cream or maybe they go on a shopping spree even if they can’t afford it. They are looking for an immediate gratification of a desire.

In the Catholic Church, an indulgence is an action someone takes to try to make their path to salvation a little easier or to lighten someone else’s load as they progress through Purgatory by trying to atone for sins. We go to Confession to repent for our sins and gain forgiveness; however, there is still the penance aspect of the sacrament. To be truly sorry for our sins, it is not just sufficient to say “I’m sorry” but to also perform other acts to demonstrate our repentance.

Leaving the confessional, we’ll usually have a set of prayers to say as our penance. This completes the aspect of asking for forgiveness but the atonement for our sins will still exist. Think of a time where you might have offended someone and you apologized. You are likely to have added to that apology by taking some other action: offering to pay for a meal, buying a dozen roses, donating to a favorite charity in their honor. These additional actions are what an indulgence is trying to accomplish for ourselves.

When we offend God, we definitely should ask for His forgiveness. And He will always forgive a truly repentant heart. However, He will still expect some form of atonement, either while we are here on earth or when we reach Purgatory. An act of indulgence is meant to either relieve us of our burdens on earth because of our sins or help through our purging after death. We can help someone else who is in Purgatory though by offering the indulgence for that person. We just cannot give the indulgence to another person on earth.

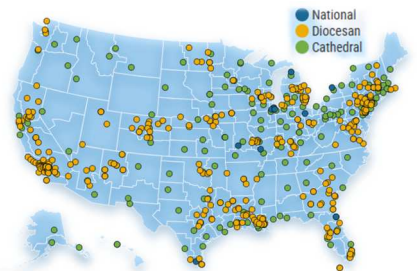
There was a time when indulgences were abused by members of the Church. They would allow people to buy indulgences, either for themselves or for loved ones who had passed. This was during a dark period of the Church’s history and was one of the main themes of Martin Luther’s reformation movement.

The Church no longer allows for the purchasing of indulgences. Instead, there is a specific set of norms to receive either a full/plenary or partial indulgence. The first requirement is to go to a place designated by the pope as a place to receive an indulgence; although when completing an act of mercy, the location is not specific. Next, the person must be free from sin by going to Confession, either 20 days before or after going to the special place. Being in a state of grace, the person should receive Holy Communion. Finally, the person must pray the Our Father and a Hail Mary for the good of the pope. At this point, the person should strive to detach themselves from any sin they tend to repeat.

Indulgences are not a license to commit additional sins. They are deliberate acts of repentance or of righteousness that atone for past sin. In this Jubilee Year of Hope, the Vatican has designated several pilgrimage locations in the US where people can go to obtain indulgences. We are all encouraged to take a pilgrimage to help our spiritual growth.

The dots on the map to the right indicate the pilgrimage locations in the US where people can go to obtain indulgences. As you can see, there are too many to list here in the bulletin. Please visit the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops’ (USCCB) website (<https://www.usccb.org/jubilee2025/pilgrimage-sites-us>) for a full list of locations.

The Catholic News Agency (CNA) website also offers a nice interactive map of locations where you can click on a location/state and get information about individual locations.





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 upon us, 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 Shea Hall 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 Shea Hall. 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 Multilingue
Multilingual Rosary

Nos acompañará el obispo Mark Beckman. Joining us will be Bishop Mark Beckman.

Después del Rosario acompañanos en la Cancillería para un refrigerio internacional.
After the Rosary 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

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

POR LOS INMIGRANTES Y REFUGIADOS/ FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

<https://dioknox.org/registro-de-rosario-multilingue>

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

On September 27, the Church celebrated the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, who knew that “God had sent him to bring good news to the poor.” Together with your gifts, the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul continue his work and mission in our parish. In the month of September, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to “bring good news to the poor,” by assisting local families, providing them with food from our food pantry and offering monetary assistance for utility and rent bills, etc. Thank You!

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



Celebrating 20 years!

Date: Sunday, October 19, 2025
Time: 3:00 - 6:00 pm
Location: St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church
900 Clingan Rd.
Cleveland, TN 37312

Esteban Salazar

will be performing a Free Concert
and refreshments will be served.
All are welcome!

Please RSVP by October 5th to Vivian Brocato
423-310-8990 or vivbrn@gmail.com



ASSISTED LISTENING SERVICE

Do 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.

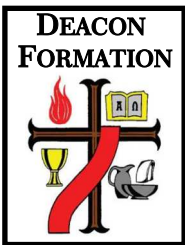
Our current system offers 4 receivers, but the demand for more has been increasing so we are looking at upgrading our system in the very near future. One parishioner who has recently begun using an assisted listening device for Masses said “This is the first time I have been able to hear the priest, 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 4th, but we will be feasting in celebration with a **Parish Potluck** on Sunday, October 5th! Sign up on the sheets in Shea Hall.

10/5 - SHEA HALL 4:00 PM



SECOND COLLECTION FOR DEACON FORMATION, OCTOBER 11 & 12

Support our Deacons Special Collection on the weekend of October 11th and 12th at both Masses. You may also offer your financial support on the diocesan website Dioknox.org or scan the QR code on the poster in Shea Hall. Any amount is greatly appreciated and supports the five-year formation program that prepares the candidates for ordination.

Our diocese is greatly blessed with over 100 deacons, 24 of whom were ordained in 2022. Your donation will assist not only with the ongoing formation and development of our deacons now serving in the diocese, but will also help with funding the instruction of the 14 men who began their five-year process of formation in 2022 and will be ordained, God willing, in 2027. Deacons are ordained to the service of the Bishop, his priests, and the people of God. They are a bridge between the sanctuary and the world in which they live. They bring the altar to the neighborhood and bring the needs of the neighborhood to the altar. They teach and help organize charitable resources within the parish and diocese. They bring the Gospel and the gift of themselves to the soup kitchens, the food banks, prisons, hospitals and wherever else a need exists as well as to the parish they are assigned to. Deacons come to God's children in the person of Christ the servant. Thank you for your generosity.

BISHOP'S APPEAL
for **MINISTRIES**

Building up the Church in East Tennessee

AUGUST 2025

Pledged: \$17,200

Collections to Date: \$14,545

Collections Needed to Reach Goal:

\$2,655.00

“The stunning truth is that Christ is present in all those you meet. How you treat them is how you treat him. If you cooperate with grace, you are Christ’s hands and heart in the world and a gift of grace to your neighbor.”

MARK P. SHEA
The Work of Mercy



 **DynamicCatholic.com**

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!

OCTOBER 4 & 5 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 October 4th and 5th. 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



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION - 10/1/25

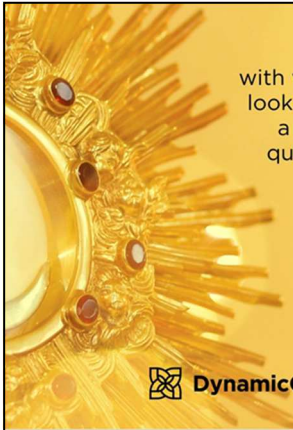


*“Always remain close
to the Catholic Church,
because it alone
can give you true peace,
since it alone possesses
Jesus in the
Blessed Sacrament,
the true Prince of
Peace.”*

- 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.



“Whenever you are filled
with worry, desperate for hope,
looking for clarity, or just need
a moment of peace, go to a
quiet place and visit Jesus in
the Eucharist. Just talk to
Him like He’s sitting on
the altar. He’ll give you
exactly what you need.”

JENNA GREIWE
Beautiful Eucharist

 **DynamicCatholic.com**



**HEALING MINISTRY AT
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH**

Our healing ministry here at St. Francis
of Assisi complements our First Friday
of the Month Mass and Adoration.

The healing service is offered concurrently with ado-
ration. Healing ministers are available in Shea Hall
and the sacristy while Adoration is available in the
church. When you would like Healing Prayers after
the 1st Friday Mass, please come into Shea Hall and
a prayer minister will pray for you individually in the
Sacristy.

Our Healing Ministry is made up of lay ministers who
have been trained to pray for your needs and heal-
ing. During our time with you, you will be advised that
this is NOT a Sacrament (such as Anointing of the
Sick). You will be asked for permission to lay hands
on your shoulders while being prayed for and you will
be offered Holy Water to use for blessing yourself
and then faithfully receive our healing prayers. Heal-
ing prayers will be for emotional, physical and/or spir-
itual healing.

If you would like to be trained to be a part of the heal-
ing team, please call Darlene Leitz at 574-238-1705
or email darby321@comcast.net for more infor-
mation.

*“Heal me, Lord, that I may be healed;
save me, that I may be saved,
for you are my praise.” (Jeremiah 17:14)*

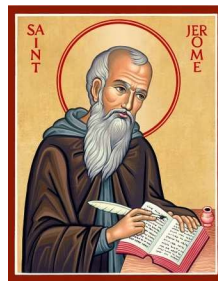
UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
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!



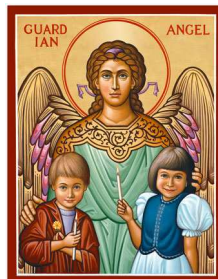
SEPTEMBER 29



SEPTEMBER 30



OCTOBER 1



OCTOBER 2



OCTOBER 4