



SEPTEMBER 7, 2025
23RD 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
DEACON.....Dc. Jim Schmall
OFFICE MANAGERSKatrina Allocco & Lesa Schmall
BOOKKEEPERKathleen 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.
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 9/8 8:30 AM Neena Schumaker †
Tue 9/9 8:30 AM Jeanne Vilardo †
Wed 9/10 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 9/11 8:30 AM All Souls in Purgatory
Fri 9/12 8:30 AM Gary Trower †
Sat 9/13 4:00 PM Charles Harrington †
Sun 9/14 9:00 AM Debbie Eberhardt, Brooks Watson

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!



ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon 9/8	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue 9/9	6:00 PM	OCIA - PRC
Wed 9/10		
Thu 9/11		
Fri 9/12		
Sat 9/13	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun 9/14	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass

SANCTUARY FLOWERS:

The sanctuary flowers are in memory of Dorothy Simons 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!



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

*St. Angela of Foligno
1248 - 1309*

*“If we paused for a moment to consider attentively
what takes place in this Sacrament,
I am sure that the thought of Christ’s love for us
would transform the coldness of our hearts into a fire of love and gratitude.”*





PLANNING AHEAD FOR OUR ETERNAL SALVATION

Christianity transcends all relationships! In today's gospel, Jesus speaks strong words about the demands of discipleship, which began for us at our baptism. Each day we are invited to lose our lives and live the paschal mystery. Living the Christian way is the clear path in which we have to die to ourselves if we want to follow Jesus, who walks ahead of us and shows us the path of life.

As with any journey, we need to be sustained for the road ahead. Before they embark on their own paths, hikers and travelers will often consider the resources they need: food, water, and the support of fellow travelers. Our gospel, however, challenges us in how it talks about resources. On the one hand, we are told to pack lightly on our discipleship road, renouncing possessions and even family members. On the other hand, Jesus uses a construction analogy to highlight the importance of proper planning, of ensuring one has the proper number of resources to finish the task. What are we to make of these challenging, and even conflicting directions?

Perhaps the basic message is not so much that resources – and people – don't matter. After all, elsewhere in the Gospel of Luke we hear that Jesus and the apostles were themselves financially supported by female disciples (8:3) who followed him to the cross (23:49). And we also know that we cannot live our faith without the support of each other, and we cannot live the mission of the church without taking into account practical considerations.

The Lord wants us to be wise in planning ahead for our eternal salvation. The way to arrive there safely is to follow him, for as he tells us in John's gospel, he is the way, and the truth, and the life. (Jn. 14:6) In other words, we know we are not going to be in this world forever, and we can't wait to start preparing for happiness with God until we hear the sound of the trumpets.

We come to Mass today seeking to grow in our relationship with Christ who is the way, for this task of putting him above everything else in our lives is an on-going process, and with his guidance and with his help we will succeed. Heaven is the happiness of surrendering ourselves to the greatest love in the universe.

As we continue in our liturgy, let us turn toward God, who is our refuge and strength. Jesus wants us to understand the magnitude of the task before us in living our baptism. Therefore, we are called to lean on him, and to trust in seeking help in prayer, in community, in conversations, and in self-sacrifice. We can be confident that, in our dying through this way of Christ, we can find the assurance of hope in the resurrection. God bless you all.



CATECHISM

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BY: David Quinn

SUFFERING – PART THREE

I had a friend in high school whose parents ran a summer business at the beach called Pick A Pearl. Their shop had a large number of oysters in a tank. You picked an oyster and the pearl inside was yours that you could place into some jewelry. Susan and I actually went to a similar shop when we got to visit Hawaii. This type of business needs to ensure that the oysters all have pearls because no one wants to pay for an empty oyster. However, the merchants don't x-ray every oyster to ensure there is a pearl; they have other mechanisms.

If you are not familiar with pearl farming, it is a system that merchants use to produce pearls in oysters. To do this, they slightly open an oyster, insert a bead or some other irritant inside, close up the oyster, and then wait for the oyster to generate the pearl. The pearl comes from the oyster trying to smooth out the irritant it is experiencing. It is taking that suffering and making something beautiful, something perfect out of that suffering.

The Church teaches that suffering has a redemptive nature to it. It will help us achieve salvation, making us ready to stand before God. While we shouldn't seek out suffering, we should accept that suffering is something that can make us better people. It can bring us closer to how Jesus taught us to live. It can help us to seek God when we are at our greatest need.

I heard a Catholic commentator once say that there are times when people willingly accept suffering to become better people. One such example is people working out to get in better shape, to be better physically. The saying you might have heard is "no pain, no gain." People will push themselves harder because it will make them more physically fit. The other example is when people join the military. Those people are pushed hard through bootcamp and they accept being pushed because they know it will prepare them for future conflict. Suffering may be thrust upon us instead of us welcoming it but we can still find ways to take that suffering and make ourselves better.

There are examples of suffering that do not make sense to us and are going to be hard for anyone to accept. We will never understand why a four-year-old child ends up with leukemia, a mother discovers she has late-term cervical cancer, a priest develops Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS), a rape victim becomes pregnant, and many other tragedies happening to good people. Suffering is a mystery, but how we handle that suffering is what can make us better people. It can turn us into pearls worthy of eternity in Heaven.



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.

The first group of reports, Custom & Context (Demographics, Strengths & Opportunities, and Key Leader Perspective) are ready to view online 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.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.

MATTHEW 28:19



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 join us!

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

We will meet 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

A SPECIAL INVITATION

Greetings All!

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

Last April at the great Easter Vigil, we welcomed six people into the Catholic faith through the Sacraments of Initiation. This year we will begin the process again on September 9, 2025, at 6pm. If you or someone you know wishes to inquire more about Catholicism, please join us on Tuesday, September 9! All are welcome.

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.

Again, please join us on September 9, 2025, at 6pm in the PRC as we begin this journey. Peace, Dc. Jim

SEPTEMBER 13 & 14 - SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE ST. MARY'S LEGACY MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC



On September 14, a second collection will be taken up in support of the Diocese's St. Mary's Legacy Mobile Medical Clinic that visits 10 medically underserved rural areas of East TN monthly providing healthcare and telehealth to the poor and uninsured. This "doctor's office on wheels," is run by a small staff and over 75 volunteer physicians, nurses, and community members who donate their time and talent to this great ministry. The Clinic provides primary health care, and access to advanced care through community partnerships. The clinic provides a "whole-person" approach, which considers both the physical and mental needs of SMLC patients. To learn more, visit www.SMLCares.com. Please be generous in supporting this great medical ministry.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel, Jesus lays out the demands of following him - the great cost of discipleship. The Mission Statement of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul states: "Vincentians witness God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice...the Society makes no distinction in those served because, in them, Vincentians see the face of Christ."

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:

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|------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 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.



DEACON FORMATION



BY: DAVID QUINN

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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

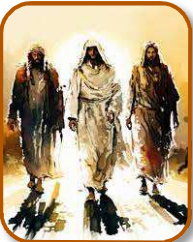
Do you know that we have a Prayer Shawl Ministry here at St. Francis of Assisi? Well, we do and we need crafters to help replenish our Prayer Shawl inventory! Our pastoral care team enjoys takings small gifts on home visits and they also enjoy delivering prayer shawls when we have shawls available.

If you are a crocheter or a knitter and would like to make some prayer shawls, please share your crafting talents with our ministry! You can use your own pattern or we have patterns available to share with you. If you are not a crafter but would like to help support this ministry, yarn donations are very welcome, as well as monetary contributions.

While a prayer shawl is being created, prayers are lifted up for whomever will be receiving the prayer shawl. Prayer shawl recipients are incredibly grateful for this gift of loving kindness and it is our blessing to be able to provide that kindness.

Crafters and patrons alike, if you are interested in contributing to this ministry please contact JoAnne (859-361-4561) to get involved.

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



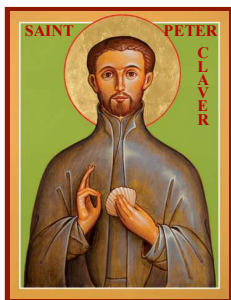
A Catholic Men's Emmaus Retreat is a three-day spiritual getaway for men, inspired by the biblical account of Jesus walking with disciples to Emmaus, where they didn't recognize Him at first but later encountered Him at supper. These retreats provide a safe, grace-filled environment for men to deepen 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
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!



SEPTEMBER 9



SEPTEMBER 13



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



Whether you are sixteen or sixty,
the rest of your life
is ahead of you.
You cannot change
one moment of your past,
but you can change your whole future.
Now is your time.



- Matthew Kelley