



OCTOBER 12, 2025  
28<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

<b>PASTOR</b> .....Fr. Antonio Giraldo	<b>GARDENS &amp; GROUNDS</b> ..... Ilene Rainwater
<b>DEACON</b> .....Dc. Jim Schmall	<b>FACILITIES</b> ..... David Girard
<b>OFFICE MANAGERS</b> .....Katrina Allocco & Lesa Schmall	<b>SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE</b> ..... JoAnne Romer-Aylward
<b>BOOKKEEPER</b> .....Kathleen Halligan	<b>PASTORAL CARE</b> ..... Suzie Fay
<b>LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTOR</b> .....JoAnne Romer-Aylward	<b>ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP</b> ..... Camilla Sorrell
<b>DIR. OF RELIGIOUS ED.</b> .....Julie Dew	<b>COLUMBARIUM</b> ..... Bob Eberhardt
<b>OCIA</b> .....Dc. Jim Schmall	<b>WELCOMING, EVENTS &amp;</b> ..... All Parishioners
<b>ART &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b> .....Michele Girard & Norene O'Donnell	<b>SOCIALS TEAM (WEST)</b>
	<b>PARISH ASSOCIATIONS:</b>
	<b>ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:</b> Debbie Eberhardt
	<b>COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN:</b> 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](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 10/13** 8:30 AM David & Susan Quinn's Anniversary  
**Tue 10/14** 8:30 AM Juliana Arroyave  
**Wed 10/15** **NO MORNING MASS**  
**Thu 10/16** 8:30 AM Margarita Maria Giraldo  
**Fri 10/17** 8:30 AM Marvin Crowder †  
**Sat 10/18** 4:00 PM Reinhold Hecht †  
**Sun 10/19** 9:00 AM George Murr †

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 DuRus-sel, Marcus Bolte, Stephanie Romer, John & Maria Bermudes, Michael Slater, Rocky Brach, Den-nis 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 DuRus-sel, 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 some-one, please contact the Parish Office via phone or email. The cost is \$15 for 1 week. Thank You!



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

<b>Mon 10/13</b>	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
<b>Tue 10/14</b>	6:00 PM	OCIA - Shea Hall
<b>Wed 10/15</b>	5:00 PM	SVdP - PRC
<b>Thu 10/16</b>	Noon	WEST Meeting - PRC
<b>Fri 10/17</b>		
<b>Sat 10/18</b>	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
	5:00 PM	SVdP Open House - PRC
<b>Sun 10/19</b>	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass
	10:00 AM	SVdP Open House - PRC

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS:** The sanctuary flowers are in memory of Robert & Helen Gibson given by Suzie Fay.



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**

*Servant of God, Dorothy Day  
1897 - 1980*

*“We cannot love God unless we love each other.  
We know Him in the breaking of bread, and we  
know each other in the breaking of bread, and we  
are not alone any more. Heaven is a banquet and  
life is a banquet, too, even with a crust,  
where there is companionship”*



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



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



## LEPROSY AND GRATITUDE

The term "leprosy" is notably present in today's readings. The narrative of Naaman, as recounted in 2 Kings, describes how he entered the Jordan River seven times, following the instructions of the man of God. As a result, his skin was restored to that of a child, and he was cleansed.

Following this event, Naaman returned to Elisha, the prophet, and offered him a gift as an expression of gratitude. Elisha declined the offering, leading Naaman to affirm that he would henceforth offer thanks solely to the Lord.

Let's briefly reflect on leprosy and gratitude - metaphorically speaking. Thankfully, most of us do not suffer from the disease itself, which still affects millions and carries a history of exclusion and suffering. Still, we can understand Naaman's joy at his healing and his desire to express thanks. Imagine yourself among the ten lepers who met Jesus, as described in today's Gospel. Picture standing "at a distance" and calling out: "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!"

In prayer today, ask, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on me." Whether at Communion or in private reflection, acknowledge your need for healing - be it forgiveness, reconciliation, or hope. Turn to the Lord for strength, and make the most of this moment with him.

In the Gospel, Jesus told them, "Go show yourselves to the priests." As they went, they were healed - their act of turning toward him and seeking cleansing led to their healing.

The sacrament of reconciliation is a perfect way of presenting ourselves to the priest. In doing so, we seek a sacramental encounter with Christ, seeking and gaining forgiveness, finding a cure for our own spiritual leprosy. Such experiences are familiar to many: through baptism, sacramental absolution, or the forgiveness - both human and divine - granted in response to genuine contrition. The passage recounts, "As they were going they were cleansed. And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him." This moment of gratitude became the foundation upon which he built a life characterized by thankfulness.

Would you have been the one who returned to thank Jesus, or among the nine who did not? Consider how leprosy and gratitude connect in your life. While free from physical leprosy, are you grateful? And if freed from spiritual burdens, do you show gratitude?

If religion could be summed up in one word, it would be gratitude. Reflect on whether you are thankful and how you express it, especially when giving thanks to God. Let gratitude shape your life and perspective. Let gratitude be central to your moral life. The phrase "much obliged" reflects a deeper sense of responsibility - thanking God means committing yourself to praise, thankfulness, and generosity towards others. Remember this as you move forward, seeking hope and growth with grace.

"Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" Say it today and every day. He will answer your plea. So, be ever grateful for that response.



## Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



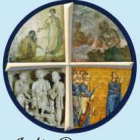
The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that he, in his goodness, sends to us day after day.



- St. Gianna Beretta Molla  
1922 - 1962

## CATECHISM

CORNER



BY: Julie Dew

Good and Happy Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time! (And yes, this includes the Vigil on Saturday!) I wish to give a huge THANK YOU and SHOUT OUT to David Quinn for his very informative, inspiring, and insightful Corners! I'm told that David really doesn't "like" to read, but he definitely must like to write! Because he did an amazing job! So, thank you again and ANY time you would like to share your love of the Catholic Faith, please don't hesitate to contact me and that invitation goes to any St. Francis parishioners: if you would like to "share" some knowledge or a life experience about your Catholic Faith in the Corner

– you know how to reach me!

For the rest of the month of October, I would like to "talk" about the Rosary. The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary because Pope Saint Pius V attributed the victory of the Holy League at the Battle of Lepanto on October 7, 1571, to the praying of the Rosary by Christians preparing for battle. This victory was seen as a miraculous intervention through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, honored in the Rosary prayers. Consequently, the Church set October as the month to honor the Rosary, encouraging the faithful to deepen their devotion to Mary through this powerful prayer. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 971) teaches that the Rosary is a compendium of the Gospel, meditating on the mysteries of Christ's life with Mary's help. I have always said that the Salvation history of the New Testament is wrapped up in those little beads.

With that being said, I know that our brothers and sisters of other faiths don't really appreciate the Rosary saying that it's "vain repetition" or that "Catholics worship Mary" and all the attention should be on Jesus, and the big one is: it's NOT in the bible. Well, the following is a quick run down of the different mysteries along with the fruits/grace of each and THEIR scripture reference:

**Joyful Mysteries:** **1.)** The Annunciation (Humility) Luke 1: 26-38; John 1:14. **2.)** The Visitation (Charity/Love of Neighbor) Luke 1: 39-56. **3.)** The Nativity (Poverty) Luke 2: 6-20; Matthew 1:18-25. **4.)** The Presentation (Obedience) Luke 2: 22-39. **5.)** The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Joy in finding Jesus; prudence) Luke 2: 41-51.

**Luminous Mysteries:** **1.)** The Baptism of Jesus (Fidelity to our baptismal promises) Matthew 3:11-17; Luke 3:15-22; John 1:22-34. **2.)** The Wedding Feast at Cana (Faith in Mary's intercession and maternal care) John 2: 1-12. **3.)** The Proclamation of the Kingdom (Conversion of heart) Mark 1:14-15; Matthew 5:1-8; Matthew 6:33; Matthew 7:21. **4.)** The Transfiguration (Become a new person in Christ) Luke 9:28-36; Matthew 17:1-8. **5.)** The Institution of the Eucharist (Love of the Eucharist; active participation at Mass); Matthew 26:26-28; John 6: 33-59.

**Sorrowful Mysteries:** **1.)** The Agony in the Garden (True sorrow for sin; repentance) Matthew 26: 36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22: 39-46. **2.)** The Scourging at the Pillar (Modesty and purity; mortification or self-denial) Matthew 27:26; Mark 15:15; John 19:1. **3.)** The Crowning of Thorns (Moral courage; love of our enemies) Matthew 27:29-30; Mark 15:16-20; John 1: 2-3. **4.)** The Carrying of the Cross (Patience, especially when suffering; fortitude) Luke 23: 26-32; Matthew 27:31-32; Mark 15:21; Luke 23: 26-32. **5.)** The Crucifixion (Perseverance; mercy) Luke 23: 33-46; Matthew 27: 33-54; Mark 15: 22-39; Luke 23: 33-47; John 19: 17-37.

**Glorious Mysteries:** **1.)** The Resurrection (Faith) Matthew 28: 1-10; Mark 16: 1-18; Luke 24: 1-49; John 20:1-29. **2.)** The Ascension (Hope) Mark: 16: 19-20; Luke 24: 50-51; Acts 1: 6-11. **3.)** The Descent of the Holy Spirit (Love of God; gifts of the Holy Spirit) Acts 2: 1-41. **4.)** The Assumption\* (Grace of a happy death; eternal happiness) Revelation 12:1. **5.)** Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth\* (True devotion to Mary) Revelation 12:1. \*\*Mary's Assumption and Coronation are implied in Revelation Chapter 12 and in other Biblical references, but neither is directly stated in the Bible. Both events are part of Catholic Tradition (capital "T"!).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines the Assumption in Sections 966 and 974.



## 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.

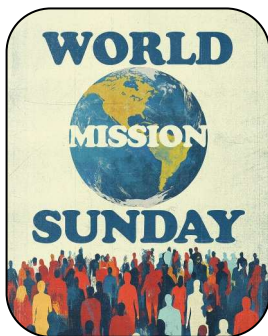
We will meet on Tuesday evenings in Shea Hall. Classes will run for about an hour and a half.

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



## 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 (Please return by October 26th) 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.



## SECOND COLLECTION FOR WORLD MISSION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18 & 19

A second collection will be taken up for the Pontifical collection for World Mission Sunday. By baptism, all Catholics are called to participate in the mission of the Church and to share their faith as missionaries of the Gospel. This collection supports the pastoral and evangelizing programs and needs of nearly 1200 mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America. Funds are distributed in the Holy Father's name by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith - a Pontifical Mission Society. Pope Pius XI first instituted Mission Sunday for the whole Church with the first worldwide collection in 1927 in order to help emphasize our catholicity and universal solidarity in sharing in our common responsibility for evangelizing the world.



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel we hear that only one of those healed returned to glorify God and to give thanks to God. It is true, that when we have a grateful heart we know that everything is a gift from God.

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 OCTOBER "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY



## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL MASS AND FOOD PANTRY OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 AT THE 4:00 PM MASS  
FOOD PANTRY OPEN HOUSE AFTER MASS IN THE PRC

&

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12 AT THE 9:00 AM MASS  
FOOD PANTRY OPEN HOUSE AFTER MASS IN THE PRC

Our St. Francis of Assisi Conference members will be renewing their annual vows to provide care to our Neighbors in Need at each weekend Mass.

After each Mass, parishioners are invited over to the PRC (Parish Resource Center) for a cake and coffee reception and a Food Pantry Open House. We love showing off our food pantry! You will get to see first hand the grocery shopping dignity we provide to those in need!

Thank you for all the support you provide to us throughout the year! We could not do the work that we are able to do without your generous, unwavering support! Please come and celebrate with us! All are welcome!



©LPI



## WELCOMING EVENTS & SOCIAL TEAM MEETING

# Thursday, October 16, 2025

## NOON in the PRC

If you are a member of this parish, you are automatically a member of this team! 😊

Please come and join in the Fall and Winter planning activities for our parish!  
A light lunch will be served.

## 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

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!

## DEACON FORMATION

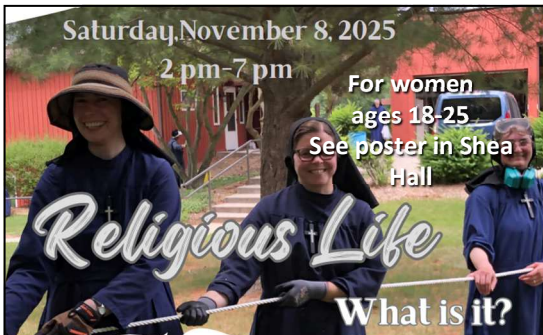


BY: DAVID QUINN

## BECOMING A DEACON – GIVING REFLECTIONS

A repeated theme for our Deacon Formation class is that they have wanted us to start practicing some of the duties of being a deacon early. When we get together for our formation weekends, they have started having us do a four to six-minute reflections on the readings for Morning and Evening Prayer. We get assigned to lead Morning or Evening Prayer about every three or four months. It is an opportunity for us to practice some exegesis based on three to four verses of Scripture.

It has been incredible hearing the personal stories of fellow candidates. One person had a vision of Jesus. Another had his head crushed by a landscaping beam. Another talked about being homeless and hooked on drugs. Having these men share their testimonies gives one greater appreciation for the future of our diocese.



## SHARE THE WARMTH DRIVE

Donate your new or gently used warm clothing for men, women & children of all ages. Please see the poster in Shea Hall for details. Please

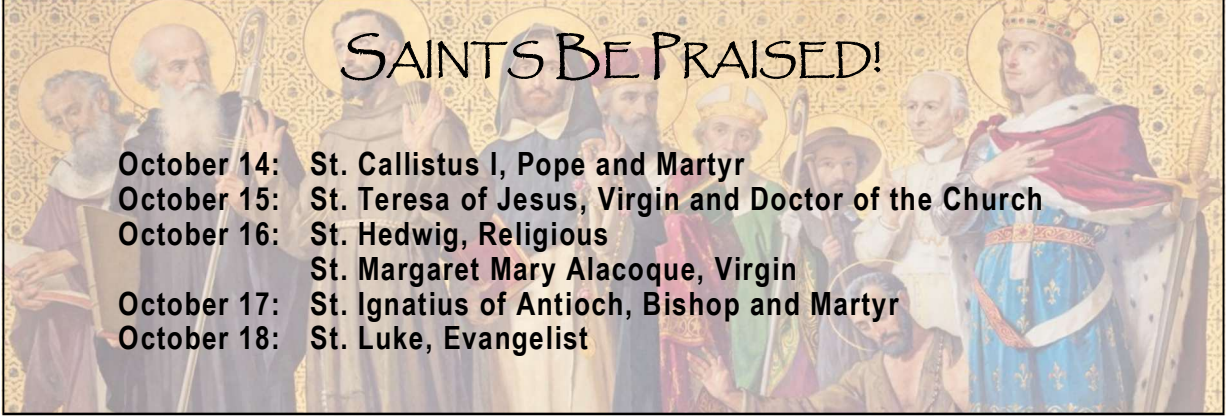
note: For your convenience, in addition to dropping off your donations at the Chancery location, you may drop them off in Shea Hall in the designated box and they will be delivered to the Chancery office for you.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
10/16/25	WEST Meeting Noon in the PRC	Online: N/A E-Mail: stfrancistownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070
10/27 - 11/30	St. Mary's Legacy Clinic Share the Warmth Drive See poster in Shea Hall	Online: www.smlcares.com E-Mail: mrichardson@smlcares.com Phone: 865-212-5570
11/8/25	Religious Life - What is It? Mary Mother of Mercy Convent 2 - 7 PM (poster in Shea Hall)	Online: www.almamercy.org E-Mail: Knoxville@almamercy.org Phone: 865-584-3307 (Diocese Office of Consecrated Life)
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!

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- October 14: St. Callistus I, Pope and Martyr
  - October 15: St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
  - October 16: St. Hedwig, Religious  
St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin
  - October 17: St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr
  - October 18: St. Luke, Evangelist