



OCTOBER 19, 2025
29TH 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.

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 10/20 8:30 AM
Tue 10/21 8:30 AM
Wed 10/22 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 10/23 8:30 AM David Holmes
Fri 10/24 8:30 AM Robert Schumacher
Sat 10/25 4:00 PM Rena Hambelton †
Sun 10/26 9:00 AM Anna Lake †

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

Mon 10/20 9:00 AM Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue 10/21 6:00 PM OCIA - Shea Hall
Wed 10/22
Thu 10/23
Fri 10/24
Sat 10/25 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
Sun 10/26 9:00 AM Sunday Mass

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**

*St. Irenaeus
 c135 - c202*

*“Our way of thinking
 is attuned to the Eucharist
 and the Eucharist in turn,
 confirms our way of thinking.”*



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP



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

BE PERSISTENT



PASTOR'S
NOTES

As we approach the end of the Liturgical Year, leaves begin to turn color and drop to the ground. The earth begins to prepare its winter's bed. We are reminded that life is tenuous at best, that seeds must fall on the ground and die before they sprout again to new life. Our attention begins to turn toward the last things and our eschatological hope. Prayer and action strengthen us as we await the final glorious day.

Today's readings and liturgy remind us that we are not to remain passive in our waiting, but rather are to pray with diligence, turn to God for the strength we need, spread the word of God by the example of our lives and fight to right injustice when it bears down on us like a roaring lion.

Today's reading from the Book of Exodus speaks of the threats God's people experienced as Moses led them from slavery in Egypt, through the desert, to the Promised Land. One such threat was opposition from those people whose lands they had to pass through to get to where they were going. Today's passage tells about an attack by Amalek, a desert tribe living south of the Dead Sea. Moses positioned himself on a nearby hill to pray for success in battle. He prayed with his arms held high in petition. As long as he prayed, his prayer was powerful and effective. This story is an encouragement to us to persevere in our prayer, which is also the lesson in today's gospel. Moses' tenacity and steadfastness win the day of Israel. We get the point: "be persistent."

A primary motif in today's letter to Timothy, is the primacy of the proclamation of God's word in the apostolic mission. This demands faithfulness to the gospel by all believers. Paul reminded Timothy that he had received the word as a child. The word was passed on to him by his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. We are prompted to remember and revere the evangelization efforts of all mothers and grandmothers who have gone before us. How many of us have embraced a living faith while rocking in the laps of our maternal ancestors?

Paul is the model of preacher of the good news. He transmitted his word with his life. We are called to have the same vocation. The fundamental message is "be persistent."

Luke's gospel today has Jesus teaching with a parable of persistence. The poor widow persists in seeking justice, so much so that she is a nuisance to the corrupt judge. Her persistence finally achieves justice. Jesus uses this example to make his point. If persistence is effective in achieving justice from a crooked official, how much more powerful will it be when we pray to our good and gracious God. The point of the story is clear: "be persistent in prayer."

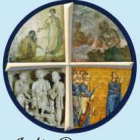
This message is timely and much needed today. There are so many situations in our world that need an infusion of healing, justice, mercy, decency and honor. This is true in our local communities, our families and workplaces as well as on the national and global scene. When we come to church, we dutifully offer prayers for all these intensions. There is something inconsistent about coming to church to hear the Word of God, to share the Eucharist, and to pray for the needs of the world, but then leave with no commitment to do our part in making our prayers fruitful. Persistence in prayer implies personal dedication as well as reliance on divine power. The way we live needs to be in harmony with the way we pray. Along with our prayer, we need to persist in doing all we can to bring about the results we pray for.

The gospel today ends with a challenge. Jesus has shown how persistence in prayer will help to bring about justice. Then he asks, "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" This question, which ends the passage, is for all of us. How real is our faith? Faith must come from the heart. It has to emerge from the inside out. This is our challenge today. We must never give up but continue to strive to live our faith. In the words of our message today, "be persistent."



CATECHISM

ORNER



BY: Julie Dew

THE HOLY ROSARY

Good and happy weekend, St. Francis of Assisi parishioners and visitors! The following is a little info about the origin of the Rosary. It is well established that the Holy Rosary has a few different origin stories. Some of them are downright off, contradictory, or really lazy attempts to fill in the history where we otherwise find blanks.

Let's start with the basic version. Modern books love to tell a charming tale about illiterate laypeople who, unable to read the 150 psalms monks recited daily, were given simple prayers to repeat instead—a prayer chain of 150 “Hail Marys” and “Our Fathers” on a string of knots. The idea was to create something comparable to the monks’ daily routine, minus the Latin and the heavy-duty memorization. Eventually, those knots were swapped for beads—because, let’s face it, knots were never going to be the next big thing in fashion!! Actually, this sounds pretty good – don’t you think? This version is peppered with some truth, **but** it has some major inaccuracies. First of all, not all monks prayed all 150 psalms on a daily basis. Indeed, the specific rules for religious orders and congregations varied widely on prayer. The Fourth Lateran Council forbade the approval of new rules for future religious orders. FYI: Synods, councils, and bulls would address the standardization of the Divine Office well after the rosary skyrocketed to popularity in the thirteenth century.

The more widely accepted version of the rosary’s origins comes from medieval France, where St. Dominic found himself in the midst of one of the most intense religious battles of the time. The Albigensians - or Cathars as they were known - had popped up in the region, spreading their dualistic heretical theology. These “groups” were anti-Catholic in the extreme, rejecting marriage, childbearing, and even baptism unless death was right around the corner. And although they claimed to shun violence, their version of peace looked suspiciously like submission. The Cathars - who acted like the holier-than-thou Pharisees of the Old Testament - appeared to offer a counterpoint to the lavish lifestyles of some Catholic clergy, who were living it up while allegedly ignoring the real work of faith. (There’s always some of THOSE in every group and ruin it for the rest of us!) As one might imagine, this created quite the religious and political storm. Enter Dominic of Santa María de La Vid. Dominic was known for his preaching, but he didn’t just preach - he engaged in debates with the Cathars (similar to a modern day Charlie Kirk - RIP), and his combination of passionate evangelization and a humble life led many to re-examine their beliefs. He was on a roll!

It was in 1208 that the legends describe the Blessed Virgin appearing to Dominic and giving him a spiritual “battering ram.” Our Lady, the story goes, revealed the form of the devotion and the layout of the holy mysteries of the life of Christ and Mary, which would repel heresy and propel any believer into virtue. And thus, the holy rosary, a meditation on Christ’s life through fifteen distinct mysteries, was born. Dominic and his followers began to spread this powerful new prayer, and, before long, the Cathars were being driven out of Europe. *Please note the five Luminous Mysteries, or Mysteries of Light, were introduced in 2002 by Pope John Paul II in the Holy Rosary.*

Soon the Dominican Order was officially approved by Pope Honorius III, becoming a powerhouse in preaching the rosary and eradicating the Albigensians. Today, we remember all of this in October, the month of the Holy Rosary, culminating with the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7 (this was the date of the Battle of Lepanto).

Setting aside the supernatural elements of this story, many books that discuss the origins of the rosary leave even Dominic out. But can the “Dominican” version of the rosary’s history be proven? I answer with a firm and confident “yes.” How about you? We will continue with “*The History of the Rosary*” next week!





Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

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.

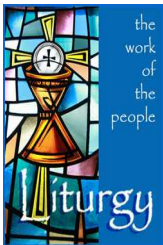
I have had many parishioners ask if it is ok for them to attend OCIA classes. The short answer is **YES!** If you are a practicing Catholic in good standing and just want to learn more about your faith, then OCIA is the perfect place to do that.

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



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES QUARTERLY SIGN-UPS FOR NOVEMBER, DECEMBER AND JANUARY

It is time for Liturgical Ministries signup! The signup sheets are on the counter (or tables) in Shea Hall. Please take a few minutes after Mass this weekend and next to sign up for your ministry/ministries. If you would like more information about our Liturgical Ministries, please check out our website, the bulletin board in Shea Hall or contact one of our ministry heads:

Lectors	Martha Frink	865-556-4684	marthafrink00@gmail.com
EMHC*	Karen Messenger	225-572-9400	komessenger@gmail.com
Ushers	Paul Czerniewski	847-877-7347	paul.czerniewski@gmail.com
Sacristans	Kathy Meyerkord	630-698-5563	kmmeyerkord@gmail.com
Altar Servers	Dan Meyerkord	708-846-4144	dkam27@sbcglobal.net

* Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



Persistent prayer is a mighty move of the soul toward God. It is a stirring of the deepest forces of the soul toward the throne of heavenly grace. It is the ability to hold on, press on, and wait.



- E. M. Bounds
1835 - 1913



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today Jesus tells his disciples to pray always without becoming weary. Indeed, our prayer must always be an expression of our love for God, our family, our world, and especially for the suffering poor. As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, please say a special prayer for the poor who have no one to pray for them.

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 OCTOBER "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VISITED OUR FOOD PANTRY OPEN HOUSE LAST WEEKEND!

It was wonderful to have so many parishioners visit our Food Pantry and experience just a tiny bit of what we offer to our Neighbors In Need! Thank you, thank you, thank you, for your continued support of the work we do! We could not do it without your support and prayers!

Townsend Foothills Kiwanis

PANCAKE

Breakfast

All are welcome!



Cost
\$8

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.



**AT BIG MEADOW FAMILY
CAMPGROUND**

Under the pavilion

Children 8 years or younger eat free



All proceeds go to service projects which enrich the lives of children in this community

October:

The Month of the Rosary

"Every time you pray the Rosary, Jesus welcomes you into His life and you welcome Him into yours. Only great things can happen when you invite Jesus into your life."

MATTHEW KELLY

Rediscover the Rosary

THE MODERN POWER OF AN ANCIENT PRAYER

Diocese of Knoxville
Catholic Schools
Preparing Scholars,
Leaders, &
Saints



SECOND COLLECTION - NOVEMBER 1 & 2, 2025 CATHOLIC SCHOOL TUITION SUPPORT

A second collection will be taken on November 1st and 2nd for Diocesan Catholic School Tuition support. The Catholic schools in our diocese provide spiritual and intellectual growth for 3,400 students in our two high schools and eight elementary schools. During the pandemic years, our Catholic schools outshined all other public and private schools, meeting all the associated challenges while ensuring the quality of our children's education remained the same. With numerous awards, unbeatable graduation rates and a passion to develop the youth of today into the leaders of tomorrow – our Catholic schools not only equip children for the journey of life but, more importantly, help to guide them along their journey to Heaven. In order to help ensure that a Catholic education is within every family's reach, we need your help. While there are many ways we seek support for our schools, no one way fully meets the growing need each year. Over the past five years, the need for supplemental tuition support has more than doubled. And over this past year, a record \$5.5 million dollars in tuition support was given to assist Catholic families. But with your help, additional children will experience the spiritual and academic advantages of a Catholic school education. Please be generous.

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH.

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.

Saturday, November 8, 2025
2 pm - 7 pm
For women
ages 18-25
See poster in Shea
Hall

Religious Life
What is it?



St. Mary's Legacy Clinic

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
10/27 - 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)



SMOKY MOUNTAIN DEANERY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN FALL GENERAL MEETING

November 8, 2025

Our Lady of Fatima ❖ 858 Louisville Rd. ❖ Alcoa, TN 37701

8:00 AM - Mass in the Chapel for those who wish to attend

9:30 AM - Rosary in the Social Hall

10:00 AM - Meeting in the Social Hall

11:30 AM - Lunch in the Social Hall

12:00 Noon - Speaker Mother Gabrielle Marie Breau with The Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will

Please see detailed flyer in Shea Hall for more information. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP by November 4th to Ilene Rainwater (865-748-1873 or irainwater@hotmail.com).