



OCTOBER 26, 2025
30TH 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) 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.
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 10/27 8:30 AM Estela Gutierrez
Tue 10/28 8:30 AM St. Carlos Acutis †
Wed 10/29 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 10/30 8:30 AM German & Pamela Giraldo
Fri 10/31 8:30 AM Poor Souls in Purgatory
Sat 11/1 4:00 PM Parishioners of SFA
Sun 11/2 9:00 AM Marion Cain †

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 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, Bruce Dunn



Update on Baby Beaux Stephen: He is truly a warrior and an over achiever as he continues to pass all milestones before the appointed time! He had his first bottle last week and did VERY well with taking it. He continues to gain weight, and the test results are in his favor! Beaux weighs 4 pounds 4 ounces (he was born at 1 pound 9 ounces) and he is now off all oxygen support methods! The family wishes to thank everyone for the prayers! Even though baby Beaux is steadily improving, we will continue to keep him on our prayer list.

Lord, thank you for our answered prayers!

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!



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 10/27	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue 10/28	6:00 PM	OCIA - Shea Hall
Wed 10/29		
Thu 10/30		
Fri 10/31		
Sat 11/1	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun 11/2	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass



O GOD, BE MERCIFUL TO ME, A SINNER

To the Jewish people, Pharisees were regarded as important figures in religious life, known for their adherence to faith and observance of God's laws. The role of the Pharisees was to guide others in religious matters.

The Pharisee described in the Gospel reading followed practices such as regular fasting, charitable giving, and observing purification laws. In the account, this Pharisee expressed his actions openly, comparing himself to a tax collector and highlighting differences in behavior and religious observance.

The term "pharisee" remains in use today. The dictionary defines a pharisee as "a person who considers himself better than others," a mindset that persists among many individuals.

The tax collector maintained a respectful distance and prayed, "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This statement is often referred to as the Jesus Prayer. The tax collector, known for collecting taxes and often regarded as taking excessive payments, is depicted here as offering this prayer.

Within the context of Jewish society, tax collectors were frequently viewed as both traitors and sinners due to their role in gathering taxes on behalf of the occupying Roman authorities. Their reputation was further tarnished by practices of extortion, which increased their personal wealth at the expense of others. Nevertheless, the tax collector acknowledged God's divinity through his prayer. In the recitation of the Jesus Prayer - "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God" - the recognition of Christ's divinity is similarly affirmed.

Subsequently, the tax collector requested mercy, stating, "Be merciful to me, a sinner." The Jesus Prayer closely mirrors this language: "Have mercy on me, a sinner." Within Christian theology, God is characterized as the ideal, compassionate, and forgiving heavenly Father.

Jesus teaches, "The one who humbles himself will be exalted." The concept of humility is derived from the Latin term "humus," meaning earth or soil, suggesting that a humble person acknowledges their feet on the ground before God.

From a theological perspective, human beings are viewed in two distinct ways: as individuals created in God's image and gifted with unique talents, and as individuals who fall short by breaking divine commandments. To practice humility with the aim of being exalted, one should first reflect on whether they are utilizing the talents bestowed upon them and representing the image of God positively.

A quick self-check might include asking: Was I harsh to family? Did I express love to my children? Did I visit relatives or show kindness to others in need? Did I avoid or gossip about anyone? For each lapse, we should acknowledge our faults and seek mercy.

The tax collector prayed, "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner," and he returned home justified. In Roman law, justification signified restoration to innocence, as if the individual had never committed the crime; the offense was removed from the record entirely.

By saying, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, be merciful to me, a sinner," one seeks justification. Approaching prayer with humility and focusing on God is believed to result in forgiveness and moral restoration.



CATECHISM

CORNER



BY: Julie Dew

Happy, happy and glorious autumn weekend! Are you interested in more history of the Rosary? I know I am!

When looking back at last week's Corner, what the Dominicans lack is a written history of these events. In fact, there is a deep gap of modern history on the rosary, no matter what version of the story is being pushed there is a definitive number of existing writings on the Rosary. It isn't until the writings of Bl. Alan de la Roche in the late 1400s that we read a thorough version of the tradition of the Blessed Virgin instructing Dominic. That's nearly a

240-year gap! Poor record-keeping is the running joke in Dominican circles! De la Roche is sadly targeted as the real author of the Rosary. For those strict historians who make no room for circumstance, he is the standard benchmark for showing a historical relation of the Rosary to Dominic.

That's a lot to think through because I was always informed/taught that St. Dominic formulated the Rosary. But here is what we do have: we see zero evidence of anything that resembles the Rosary prior to Saint Dominic, and an explosion of Rosary use in the time immediately after him.

Multiple recitations of shorter Christian prayers were a general practice of Christians for centuries before Dominic. No place was this more evident than in England, where a "belt of pater noster" (Our Fathers) was to be prayed at funerals. And in Paris, where historians have laid out the manufacturers of these apparent strings of beads or knots. I didn't know this until I did more detailed research on the Rosary. What we do not find, however, is much of any recitation of the Angelic Salutation (the Hail Mary), benediction of the Trinity, the creed, or meditation on the life of Christ in a structure. And these are the core of the Holy Rosary—it is as much a **teaching apparatus as it is a devotion of faith.**

Jean Mabillon, a French Benedictine monk of the seventeenth century, was a famed "compiler" - a fancy word for historian. He records in his *Acta Ordinis S. Benedicti* multiple ordinances of bishops of Dominic's time that instruct the faithful to pray using the Angelic Salutation and the Apostle's Creed in successive repetition - and not as a means of replacing the Our Father, but to support it, since many groups of the time, like the Cathars, were sowing seeds of doubt about the Incarnation. - *Catholic.com*

We will continue to "investigate" the controversial history of the Rosary next week even though it is November! I know! I know! BUT I just have SO much to share! Enjoy this glorious weather and praise the Painter of this creation that we are blessed with!

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



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

St. Thomas Aquinas
1225 - 1274

*"Sweetest Jesus,
Body and Blood most Holy,
be the delight and pleasure of my soul,
my strength and salvation
in all my temptations,
my joy and peace in every trial,
my light and guide
in every word and deed,
and my final protection in death.
Amen"*



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In this Sunday's Gospel, the tax collector's prayer allows God to be God and so allows God to pour mercy into his heart. When we pray and give alms to the poor, we allow God's mercy to be poured into their hearts. In the month of October, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring God's love and mercy to local families, providing assistance with food, for utility and rent bills, etc. We couldn't help our Neighbors-In-Need and keep this ministry going without YOUR help! Thank You!

We've been receiving questions lately about donating to SVdP. Here are some general donations guidelines:

- For those who receive (and use) preprinted church contribution envelopes, the SVdP envelope (which is marked for the beginning of the month) can be placed in the collection basket **ANY** time of the month. If you are not using preprinted church contribution envelopes and want to place your donation in a weekend Mass collection basket, please put your donation in an envelope (of any kind) marked SVdP to make sure it gets into the SVdP account.
- Please make any checks out to: **St. Vincent de Paul** (not St. Francis of Assisi).
- Donations can also be placed in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, located in the Narthex, to the right of the exit doors (just above the holy water station). Ushers can help show you the location.
- We annually publish a summary of our expenditures that detail how your monetary donations are being used.
- Feel free to reach out to us with any questions.

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



KNOX AREA RESCUE MINISTRIES

YOUR KARM DONATIONS BENEFIT OUR FOOD PANTRY

Do you know that your donations to KARM can benefit our "Neighbors in Need" food pantry? All you have to do is take your donation items to any of the KARM locations. Tell them that your donations are to benefit St.

Francis of Assisi - **Townsend** (mentioning **TOWNSEND** is important because there are 2 St. Francis of Assisi Churches on file with KARM - the other one is up in Knoxville). SVDP then receives gift cards from KARM which we give to our neighbors for purchasing clothing and other items. We have been getting \$100 to \$150 in gift cards each quarter, so your donations are greatly helping! Thank you for helping us and helping your brothers and sisters in need! We wish you could see the smiles this gift brings to them!





**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CONFERENCE - TOWNSEND, TN
2024-2025 ACTIVITY REPORT**

MISSION: St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP)/St. Francis of Assisi - Townsend, TN (SFA) provides food and financial aid for rent, gas, utilities, medical, and other necessities to our Neighbors in Need (NIN). SVDP is dedicated to feeding, clothing, housing, and healing individuals and families in our community who have nowhere else to turn for help. Of equal importance, SVDP provides meaningful opportunities for volunteers to serve their Neighbors in Need with love and compassion. Assistance is given to our NIN without any discrimination on age, religious belief, political beliefs, race, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.

THE FOLLOWING STATISTICS ARE FOR 10/1/2024-9/30/2025

SUMMARY OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO COMMUNITY:

Food Pantry Visits: 318 visits (Average of 70 individuals per month)
 Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter Food Baskets: 90 Baskets for each holiday.
 The distribution included the SVDP Neighbors in Need, Blount County Foster Families, and Blount County Senior Advocacy Group. This included food to prepare a holiday meal along with a turkey or ham, bread and butter.
 Total cost of operating Food Pantry, Food Distributions and Holiday Baskets: \$23,152 (includes IGA/Dollar General Gift Certificates)



SOURCES OF INCOME:

Parish Contributions and SVDP Poor Box: \$19,615
 Pope Francis Charitable Trust Fund Grant: \$5,000
 St. Mary's Legacy Grant: \$7,155



OTHER SVDP ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO NEIGHBORS IN NEED:

Lodging/Rent: \$373
 Utility Bills: \$1,450
 Misc. Needs & SVDP Operating Costs: \$846

ABOUT SVDP AT ST. FRANCIS:

Full Time Members: 20 Member Service Hours: 821
 Associate Members: 12 Estimated Mileage by Members: 2,968

CURRENT OFFICERS:

President:Debbie Eberhardt
 Vice-President:Kathy Meyerkord
 Secretary:Claire Andersen
 Treasurer:Sharon McKune
 Spiritual Leader:Ilene Rainwater
 Pantry Manager:Ron Andersen



Thank you AGAIN for your constant and generous support to serve the poor and needy in our community. ALL ARE WELCOME TO Attend our Meetings which are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday's every month at 5 pm in the Parish Resource Center.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Recently, we at St. Vincent de Paul went through a tragedy with one of our Neighbors-In-Need (NIN). Due to a fire, this individual lost his home and everything, while at work, including his pet dog! We worked closely with our NIN, to restore basic living needs and much needed emotional support. It became an "all hands-on-deck" community effort to get this person back on his feet!

The entire local community came together to help this gentleman. Here is a list of the Community Organizations involvement:

- St. Vincent de Paul provided basic clothing, toiletries, and some household needs.
- Hearts and Hands let our NIN shop for whatever he needed (lamps, bedding etc.) free of charge.
- Camp Ground Methodist Church purchased a 100-gallon propane tank to supply heat in the new home.
- Ace Hardware filled the propane tank for free.

This is just one example of what we do at St. Vincent de Paul to help our Neighbors in Need! We are blessed to have the monetary budget to help (due to your donations), dedicated compassionate caring members, and great working partner relationships in our community.



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:

- | | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 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!

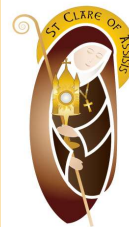


SHARE THE WARMTH DRIVE

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 beneath the TV and they will be delivered to the Chancery office for you.



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP



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



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!

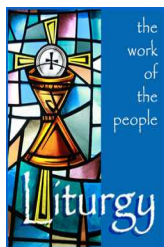
Classes are held every Tuesday in Shea Hall at 6:00 PM.

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.

Peace, Deacon Jim ❖ sfdeacon7717@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	kmeyerkord@gmail.com
Altar Servers	Dan Meyerkord	708-846-4144	dkam27@sbcglobal.net

* Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM

“It is not easy to entrust oneself to God's mercy, because it is an abyss beyond our comprehension. But we must! ... "Oh, I am a great sinner!" "All the better! Go to Jesus: He likes you to tell him these things!" He forgets, He has a very special capacity for forgetting. He forgets, He kisses you, He embraces you and He simply says to you: "Neither do I condemn you; go, and sin no more" (Jn 8:11).”

- Pope Francis (from his homily on March 17, 2013)
1936 - 2025



Save the Date!

Parish Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14, 2025

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Tremont Lodge in Townsend, TN

\$45.00 per person

DINNER MENU:

- * House Salad
- * Herb-Roasted Chicken or Smoked Beef Brisket
- * Mashed potatoes with brown gravy
- * Southern Green Beans
- * Coleslaw

PLUS, PLUS, PLUS:

- * Appetizers
- * Assorted drinks
- * Ornament Exchange Game
- * Deserts
- * Christmas Music
- * Amazing Fellowship!

Please reserve your spot at the party on the signup sheets in Shea Hall. Payment is due in the church office by November 30th. Please make your check (preferred payment method) payable to "St. Francis of Assisi Church." If you would like to participate in the Ornament Exchange Game, please bring a wrapped **UNBREAKABLE** ornament! Tremont Lodge is offering discounted room rates for anyone attending the party who would like to spend the night rather than drive home.

Image by pngtree.com

IN NOVEMBER WE REMEMBER



We honor the dead during the month of November. Our *Names of the Dead* book will be placed on the tables in the St. Padre Pio/St Clare alcove in the church for the month of November.

BOOK OF THE DEAD: Please feel free to write the names of loved ones who have died **this past year** (November 1, 2024 - November 1, 2025) in the book so that the repose of their souls may be prayed over.

REMEMBRANCE TABLES: Please bring framed photos of loved ones who have died (**not restricted** to this past year) and place the photos on the remembrance tables in the church alcove.

The book and framed photos will remain in church throughout the month of November. The names written in the book will be honored (collectively) at each weekend Mass throughout the month of November.

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)
12/5/25	Matt Maher/Sarah Kroger Advent Concert 7:00 PM SJN in Knoxville	Online: See poster in Shea Hall (scan QR code) E-Mail: NA Phone: 865-603-0303 OR 865-300-9090
12/14/25	Parish Christmas Party 4:00—7:00 PM Tremont Lodge - Townsend, TN	Online: N/A (Sign up in Shea Hall) 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).