



OCTOBER 5, 2025
27TH 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 sfbulletin7717@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 10/6 8:30 AM Geraldine Fessler †
Tue 10/7 8:30 AM All Souls in Purgatory
Wed 10/8 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 10/9 8:30 AM Yvette Sturm †
Fri 10/10 8:30 AM Natalie & Joseph Watson, Joann Nieman †
Sat 10/11 4:00 PM Joanne Reinbold †
Sun 10/12 9:00 AM Luke Simons †

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, Denis 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 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 10/6 9:00 AM Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue 10/7 6:00 PM OCIA - Shea Hall
Wed 10/8
Thu 10/9
Fri 10/10
Sat 10/11 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
Sun 10/12 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. Francis of Assisi
1182 - 1226*

*“O sublime humility! O humble sublimity!
That the Lord of the whole universe,
God and the Son of God,
should humble himself like this
and hide under the form of a little bread,
for our salvation.”*



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP



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



ALL WE NEED IS FAITH THE SIZE OF A MUSTARD SEED

The prophet Habakkuk, who speaks to us in today's first reading, lived 600 years before Christ in a very difficult period. Habakkuk asks God for relief. God assures him it will come if the people just put their trust in God. However, they didn't. Everything they did under the leadership of the king in Jerusalem was the exact opposite of what God told them to do. Habakkuk cries out for an end to destruction, violence, and misery in the land. Where is the Lord? Why does he not intervene?

Does this sound familiar? We often feel like we are being swallowed up by misery and suffering. Violence seems to reign in our city streets. Innocent lives are struck down before they even have a chance to live. Earthquakes, hurricanes, forest fires, climate change, and pandemics seem to have no end.

We, too, like the prophet Habakkuk, cry out in pain, anger, and hopelessness. Where are you, Lord? Why do you not intervene? We often feel as if we are alone in this struggle. How can children and elderly be neglected and/or abused? How can the few rich and powerful nations of the world keep the overwhelming majority in abject poverty? How can children be kept in cages and separated from their parents? How can the blood of the martyrs continue to cry out for justice? These are daunting questions, but we must not despair even when such questions are not easily answered. We must not tempt God, for we have witnessed his works. We must keep the vision ever before our eyes, knowing that our God has never failed us yet.

In the apostle Paul's final letter, written to Timothy just before Paul's execution, Paul calls on Timothy to live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ in the face of growing opposition. Paul could look back on his own life with satisfaction knowing that he has "finished the race; I have kept the faith" (2 Tim 4:7). Paul wants Timothy to know what a life of full commitment to Christ will cost. He is advising Timothy how to respond to the evils and to people who oppose what he believes in. He must keep the faith. Paul is encouraging his beloved disciple and all believers to commit themselves to becoming instruments fit for God use.

In our gospel reading from Luke, the apostles ask Jesus to "increase our faith." Jesus in turn assures them that they only need faith the size of a tiny mustard seed, and even the mountains will move. The power of such faith is more than sufficient to do even greater things than Jesus had done. Not only will they be able to heal the sick and the lame; they will be able to speak the words of life, and souls will be won for the Kingdom of God.

Our God has given us everything that we need. He has equipped us to preach the kingdom of God through our witness of faith, our enduring love, and our unlimited forgiveness for those who persecute us for the sake of the Gospel. All we need, brothers and sisters, is faith the size of a mustard seed. God will do the rest.



Image used with permission:
<https://favpng.com>



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



Let your way of life among the people be such that whoever sees or hears you will glorify and praise our heavenly Father.



- St. Francis of Assisi
1182 - 1226

CATECHISM

CORNER



BY: David Quinn

PILGRIMAGES

The word “pilgrim” may invoke images of people coming to the new world on the Mayflower and having Thanksgiving dinner with the natives. In the Catholic Church, a pilgrim is someone who is on a faith journey to a holy site. A pilgrim is not necessarily someone who is “on fire” for the Lord. A pilgrim can be anyone looking to enrich their spiritual life and find additional ways to come closer to God. To be a pilgrim though, you need to go on a pilgrimage.

To some people, a pilgrimage may sound just like taking a tour to a location like Alaska or Hawaii. A pilgrimage has a spiritual component to it though. Yes, you are traveling somewhere different and you probably have a detailed agenda on when to be where throughout your pilgrimage but a pilgrimage is more than just a religious themed tour.

First, where you are going will be a designated pilgrimage location. Many Catholic pilgrims will head to the Holy Land, Jerusalem. Others will head to the Vatican or Lourdes or Fatima or another holy site. It is not necessary to travel overseas though. There are a large number of pilgrimage sites in the United States, especially during this Jubilee Year of Hope. The US Council of Catholic Bishops has a list of pilgrimage sites on their website (www.usccb.org/jubilee2025/pilgrimage-sites-us). The list of pilgrimage sites has been increased for the Jubilee. Many sites will still be pilgrimage sites even after the Jubilee is over in December.

Part of the pilgrimage should set aside time to tour the site, attend Mass, go to Confession, contemplate Scripture or other spiritual readings, say the rosary, or do something that gives you personal time with God. Many pilgrimages will provide you the opportunity to gain indulgences as you travel.

The other part of the pilgrimage should be seeing things and doing things as a group, helping to enhance your spiritual experience of the pilgrimage. Sharing observations with others, hearing their impressions, praying for each other’s intentions gives a sense that we are the Body of the Church, as New Testament tells us to be.

If you are considering doing a pilgrimage, talk to someone who has been on one. You will likely hear some great experiences and decide how to plan and follow a pilgrimage that meets your spiritual needs.



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.



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.

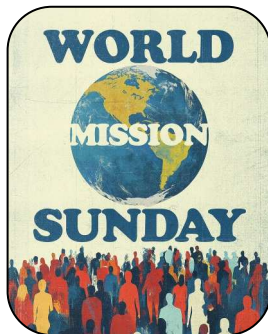
We will meet on Tuesday evenings in Shea Hall. Classes will run for about an hour and a half.

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 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 Jesus tells his disciples, "When you have done all you have been commanded, say: We are unprofitable servants; we have only done what we were obliged to do." This week, please help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to bring the love and mercy of Jesus to those who feel left out and abandoned, for indeed we are only doing "what we are obliged to do."

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



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!

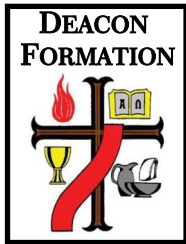
Please RSVP by October 5th to Vivian Brocato
423-310-8990 or vivbrn@gmail.com



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.

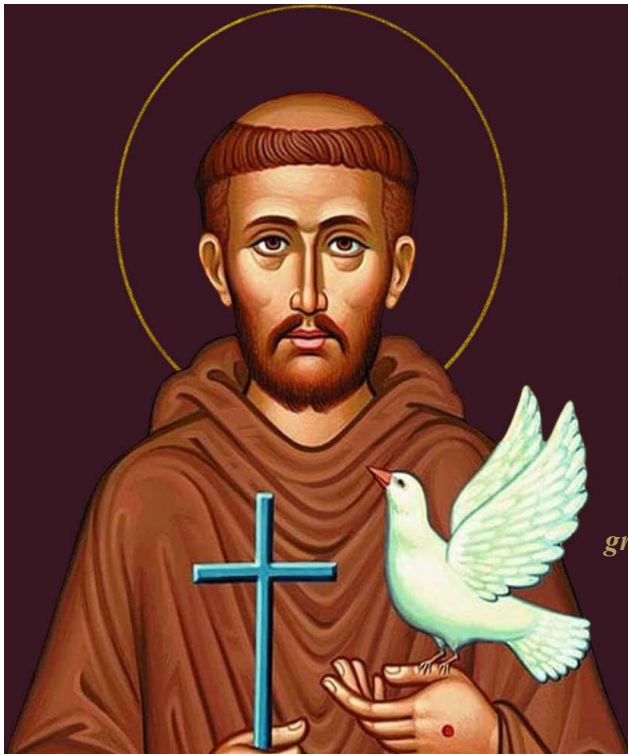
Our current system offers 4 receivers, but the demand for more has been increasing so we are looking at upgrading our system in the very near future. One parishioner who has recently begun using an assisted listening device for Masses said "This is the first time I have been able to hear the priest, the readings, and the music in over 3 years! It has helped me so much!"



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.



FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OCTOBER 4

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying
that we are born to eternal life.*

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

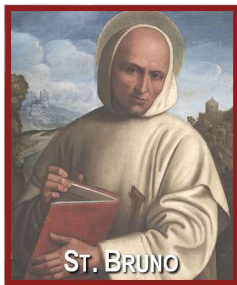
Saturday, November 8, 2025
2 pm - 7 pm
For women
ages 18-25
See poster in Shea
Hall

Religious Life
What is it?

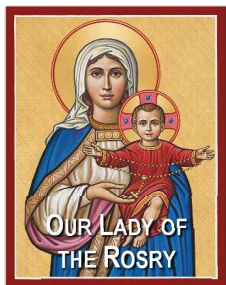
SHARE THE WARMTH DRIVE
Donate your new or gently used warm clothing for men, women & children of all ages. Please see the poster in Shea Hall for details. Please

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.

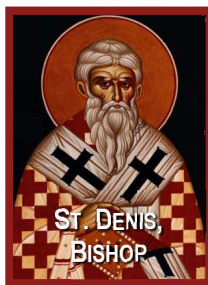
SAINTS BE PRAISED!



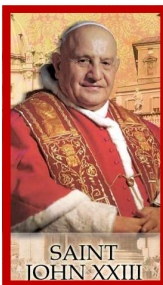
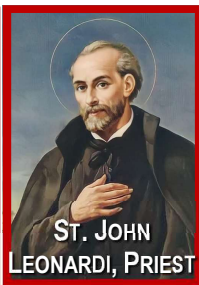
OCTOBER 6



OCTOBER 7



OCTOBER 9



OCTOBER 11