



NOVEMBER 16, 2025
33RD 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

PASTOR.....Fr. 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
OCIADc. Jim Schmall
ART & ENVIRONMENTMichele 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 11/17 8:30 AM Dang Thi Sinh + & Isave Elizabeth +
Tue 11/18 8:30 AM St. Carlos Acutis +
Wed 11/19 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 11/20 8:30 AM Michael Harwell +
Fri 11/21 8:30 AM Shirley Keeven +
Sat 11/22 4:00 PM The Giraldo Family
Sun 11/23 9:00 AM St. Carlos Acutis +

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, Bill Irby, Teresa Williams,
 Jeffrey Garrison, Ann Day, Ed Welsh, Thomas Fay, Sofia Graziano, Dale DuRussel, Suzie Fay,

Beaux Stephen Crane, Robert Schumacher, German Giraldo, Bruce Dunn



Update on Baby Beaux Stephen: Baby Beaux has passed all his tests, did every-
 thing the doctor said, exceeded the benchmarks, and has been sent home! Even
 though baby Beaux is now home and continues to steadily improve, we will contin-
 ue to keep him on our prayer list for a couple of weeks - just for "good measure!"

Update on Linda Gronberg-Quinn: Linda is doing much better and the family thanks you for your prayers!

Lord, thank you for our answered prayers!

SANCTUARY CANDLE: A donation has been made to the Sanctuary Candle fund by Lesa Schmall for a good outcome for A. Berry and J. Henson. If you would like to donate to the sanc-
 tuary 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!



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!



ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	11/17	9:00 AM	Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue	11/18	6:00 PM	OCIA - Shea Hall
Wed	11/19	5:00 PM	SVDP - Shea Hall
Thu	11/20		
Fri	11/21		
Sat	11/22	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	11/23	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass



WE MUST ALLOW JESUS TO COME INTO THE CENTER OF OUR LIVES

How often do we think about the end times? Do we believe and desire that Jesus will come again and that this will carry out the Father's plan? It's easy for us to lose sight of the big picture, God's ultimate plan. We can get caught up in our daily lives, our jobs, our families, our problems, and forget that one day Jesus will return in glory. Let us look forward with eager expectation to Jesus' return by being faithful to him each day.

Prediction of the end times has at least two levels of meaning. On one level, Jesus was prophesying the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple by the Romans in 70 A.D. This is similar to Jeremiah's prophecy that Solomon's temple would be destroyed due to the people's unfaithfulness to God. This happened in 586 B.C. when the Babylonians sacked Jerusalem.

On another level, Jesus was speaking of the end of the world: "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not come immediately." Jesus did not answer the disciple's question about when the end will come, but only said that wars and disasters will come first. We ourselves do not know the day or the hour, nor can we avoid events that must happen beforehand because they are part of God's plan.

What we can do, however, is to remain faithful to Jesus. If we stand firm in the faith, then these words of Jesus are hopeful. This is because we know that Jesus' return and the events that must precede it are part of God's eternal plan. Those who cling to Jesus and believe in him will experience eternal life when he comes, a life of fullness and joy beyond anything we can know in this earthly existence. For the infidels, however, these words are a cause for pain.

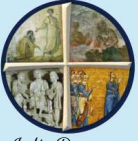
Jesus speaks to every generation; Christians will always be persecuted, even by family members, because believing in Jesus and seeking to follow his teaching contradicts the ways of the world. Despite persecution, the Lord calls us to stand firm. He promises to protect and bless us in exchange for our faithfulness to Him. Our faith will help us move forward, and it comes only from the Lord. The Hebrew writer called Jesus the "pioneer and perfecter of our faith." He is the one who gives us faith and who strengthens our faith.

We must allow Jesus to come into the center of our lives. Is Jesus just an abstract idea for us? Do we only know him intellectually? Does he remain distant from our daily experience? If so, we will not be able to resist persecution. Only a deep experience of Jesus and a personal knowledge of his love for us can enable us to be with him in the face of persecution. This experience comes through the power of the Holy Spirit. We should not worry about how to handle the persecution. Jesus himself said, "Do not worry about how to defend yourselves or what to say, for when the time comes, the Holy Spirit will tell you what to say."

Could you give testimony right now - right this very minute, to what God has done in your life? Think about where you are now, where you have been, and what you hope your future will be. How has the hand of God sewn threads throughout your life? That is your testimony. That is your witness. What is stopping you from shouting it from the rooftops? Be bold in knowing that Christ Jesus will give you a fraction of the wisdom of Solomon so you can proclaim, "Jesus Christ is Lord." Remember what he tells you. Do not be afraid. That is his testimony, for he is the Light of the World illuminating the darkness for you and me.

CATECHISM

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BY: *Julie Dew*

PRAYING TO THE DEAD

Hello St. Francis Parishioners! Here we are in the middle of November! Crazy how the year is almost gone!

So, last week we “talked” about praying for the dead. Now praying FOR the dead is entirely different than praying TO the dead. WAIT!! We pray to the dead when we pray to the Saints. Are we wrong? No, we’re not wrong! People may argue with you about this and quote biblical texts like Deut. 18:10-11 and Isaiah 19:3 - each of which condemns necromancy - are employed to say “communication with the dead” is condemned absolutely. What is being condemned in these texts from Deuteronomy and Isaiah is conjuring up the dead through wizards and mediums, **not** praying to saints. The Church has always condemned this. Mediums attempt to conjure up spirits and manipulate the spiritual realm at will. This is categorically different from Christians asking for the intercession of their brothers and sisters in Christ. We do not “conjure up” or manipulate anything or anyone. True prayer - whether to God or the angels and saints - changes the pray-er, not the pray-ee.

If one says, “... there is to be no communication between the living and the dead,” where does this leave Jesus? He is clearly guilty then according to Luke 9:29-31:

While he [Jesus] was praying, his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish at Jerusalem. NAB

According to Deuteronomy 34:5, Moses was dead. And yet Jesus was communicating with him and Elijah about the most important event in human history - the redemption. Obviously, Jesus does not agree with the naysayers. Some may say, “Well, he’s God, so He can do that.” Yes, He is. But He is also fully man, and we are called to imitate Him. If Jesus initiated communication with the dead, there is no reason to believe followers of Jesus cannot do the same. This is precisely what we mean as Catholics when we say we “pray to the saints.”

The New Testament presents to us very plain examples of the faithful on earth initiating communication with the saints in heaven. First, we have Hebrews 11-12 Chapter 11, wherein the lives of many of the Old Testament saints are recounted. Then, the inspired author encourages these to whom he referred earlier as a people who were being persecuted for their faith (10:32-35), to consider that they are “surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses.” Then, beginning in 12:18, he encourages these New Covenant faithful by reminding them that their covenant - the New Covenant - is far superior to the Old. You need to read this scripture from Hebrews because I don’t have enough space! The Book of Revelation gives us an even better description of this communication between heaven and earth. Please read Revelation 5:8-14. These “elders” are offering the prayers of the faithful symbolized by incense filtering upward from the earth to heaven. And because they are seen receiving these prayers, we can reasonably conclude they were both directed to these saints in heaven and that they were initiated by the faithful living on earth. We also see this same phenomenon being performed by the angels in Revelation 8:3-4 (please read!). Other scripture for praying to or for the dead: Luke 16:24; Luke 16:27-28; 1 Samuel 28:15-15; Jeremiah 15:1; Exodus 32:11-12; 1 Samuel 7:9; Psalm 99:6; Matthew 27:46-50.

The bottom line is this: Both the faithful on earth and our brothers and sisters in heaven (and let’s not forget the angels) are all acting just as Catholics would expect. Believers on earth are initiating prayers which the saints and angels in heaven are receiving. Is this the necromancy condemned in Deuteronomy and Isaiah? Absolutely not! This is New Testament Christianity!



OCIA AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

OCIA (Formerly RCIA) is an acronym for **O**rders of **C**hristian **I**nitiation of **A**dults which 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

Save the date!

*Advent Retreat/Mission:
A Season of Discipleship*

Saturday, December 13th

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Signup now in Shea Hall. Details to follow



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The Gospel predicts end times; our challenge though is to live faithfully now. St. Vincent often asked this simple question: "What would Jesus Christ do, if he were in my place now? Ask yourself "What would Jesus Christ do?" and then put your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul poor box so that those who are suffering will be able to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Some general reminders and guidelines about donating to SVdP:

- 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 show you the location.
- 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 NOVEMBER "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" DISH SOAP & SPONGES



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

Pope Benedict XVI
1927-2022

***"With the Eucharist, therefore, heaven comes down to earth,
the tomorrow of God descends into the present
and it is as if time remains embraced
by divine eternity."***



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



Suffering is a sign that you have come so close to Him that He can KISS you.



- Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta
1910 - 1997

Image by pngtree.com



Parish Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14, 2025

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Tremont Lodge in Townsend, TN

\$45.00 per person

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 **UN-BREAKABLE** ornament! Tremont Lodge is offering discounted room rates for anyone attending the party who would like to spend the night rather than drive home.



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 de-

tails. 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

Start your Christmas Shopping Now!



ANGEL GIVING TREE 2025

It is time again for our annual Angel Tree, benefitting the foster children of Blount and surrounding counties. **Our Angel Giving Tree is set up in Shea Hall!** Please consider taking a tag or two from the tree and filling the wishes of a foster child in need.

If you would like to participate, but would rather not shop, there is the option of donating by check made out to the Blount County Foster Association, or with a gift card.

Gifts can be wrapped or not, whichever you prefer and need

to be brought in by Sunday, December 7th

to allow for time to get them to the children. Feel free to contact Laura Rapien (865-258-2022) with any questions. St. Francis has always been so generous and supportive of our foster children and on behalf of the children and our foster association, sincere thanks to all of you for your help with the Angel Tree.

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
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
12/21/25	Santa's Visit to SFA 10:00 AM Shea Hall	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!

November 17
November 18
November 21
November 22

St. Elizabeth of Hungary
The Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul
The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
St. Cecilia

IN NOVEMBER WE REMEMBER



We honor the dead during the month of November. Our *Names of the Dead* book is 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.