



NOVEMBER 23, 2025
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE

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 11/24 8:30 AM St. Carlos Acutis +
Tue 11/25 8:30 AM Luz Elena Giraldo & Family
Wed 11/26 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 11/27 9:00 AM Thanksgiving Intentions
Fri 11/28 8:30 AM St. Carlos Acutis +
Sat 11/29 4:00 PM Connie Mahaffey +
Sun 11/30 9:00 AM Kimberly Schmall +

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 everything 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 continue 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 FLOWERS: The sanctuary flowers this week are in memory of Raymond Simons, given by Eric and Gail Simons. 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 11/24 9:00 AM Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue 11/25 6:00 PM OCIA - Shea Hall
Wed 11/26
Thu 11/27 9:00 AM **Thanksgiving Day Mass**
Fri 11/28
Sat 11/29 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
Sun 11/30 9:00 AM Sunday Mass



Thanksgiving Day
11/27/25
&
Friday 11/28/25

CHRIST THE KING



Many individuals may not be aware that the Feast of Christ the King, which is observed this Sunday, is a relatively recent addition to the church calendar. It was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 in response to the prevailing ideologies of the time. The feast aimed to challenge the increasing influence of communism and secularism, two movements that emphasized human authority over divine sovereignty. In subsequent years, the emergence of totalitarianism further underscored the relevance and importance of this celebration.

A century later, these challenges have shifted to ones that may diminish the role of faith, such as materialism and relativism. Nonetheless, this observance continues to serve as a counterpoint to prevailing cultural trends and presents itself as a meaningful challenge for reflection.

Naturally, we hope for a kingdom defined by peace and justice. Yet we also wish for a realm built on selfless love - where true honor isn't measured by possessions or control, but by what one is willing to surrender. In this kingdom, genuine strength is found in vulnerability. It's a place where we're encouraged to love and give wholeheartedly, until nothing remains. Pure love governs here, and it is this kingdom the "thief" seeks to belong to. This exchange occupies a distinctive position within scripture. In this passage, Christ is not addressed as "Rabbi" or "Teacher." During the final moments of his life, an individual refers to Him simply as "Jesus." He addresses him directly, engaging in a sincere and earnest exchange. He says, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus responds to a simple prayer with reassurance: "Today, you will be with me in paradise." The promise of the kingdom is certain. One man's faith in his final moments brings him salvation, offering comfort and consolation to everyone.

Cyril of Jerusalem, one of the Church Fathers, eloquently described the way early Christians received communion by shaping their hands like a throne for the Lord. The title "Christ the King" has endured even as most world monarchies have faded - today, only around 40 true monarchs remain, many serving more as symbolic figures than rulers.

As a teenager, one of the hymns that was especially popular was "The King of Glory." I won't subject you to my singing, but its lyrics have stayed with me: "The king of glory comes, the nation rejoices, open the gates before him, lift up your voices."

On this unique feast day, the final Sunday in the liturgical calendar - we symbolically open the gates, raise our voices. We welcome the King of Glory into our hearts and pray, as the good thief did: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST



Scott Hahn - Reasons to Believe

***"Where the Eucharist is,
there is the King.
And where the King is,
there is the Kingdom.***

CATECHISM

C
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BY: *Julie Dew*

Happy Feast of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe! This feast means that next week something amazing is going to happen!

Today I wish to “talk” about purgatory, yup that “taboo word.” Purgatory is an often-misunderstood doctrine. It isn’t considered a spiritual jail or hell with parole, and the Church doesn’t teach that everyone goes to purgatory. As Catholic Christians, the Bible guides us, but along with Sacred Tradition, the early Church Fathers/Doctors of the Faith and other informational literature such as “The Catechism of the Catholic Church” (CCC) guide us to a closer relationship with God and eventually to our heavenly home.

The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned. The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on Purgatory especially at the Councils of Florence (1431) and Trent (1545). The tradition of the Church, by reference to certain texts of Scripture (1 Corinthians 3:15; 1 Peter 1:7; Revelation 21:27), speaks of a cleansing fire. The real doctrine consists of the conviction that God’s mercy and justice must be kept intact and upheld. God’s divine mercy refers to the fact that He forgives any sin as long as the sinner is truly repentant and sorry. God’s justice, however, is that good is rewarded and evil punished. The Church believes that purgatory evens the score and fulfills justice while accommodating mercy. The Church believes that purgatory isn’t a place, but a spiritual state of the soul in which it’s purified before entering heaven. The souls in purgatory are definitely and absolutely going to heaven, just not yet.

People who live an exceptionally good and holy life – no need for purgatory. Here’s a favorite of mine that needs to be repeated: Think of it like this: Joe and Max were both born on the same day and both died on the same day. Joe was a womanizer, thief, boozier, gambler, dishonest, lived a life of laziness and being undependable. Max on the other hand, spent his life obeying the Ten Commandments, practicing virtue, and loving God and neighbor. Just before dying, Joe repents of his old ways and accepts the Lord into his heart. Should Joe and Max both go to heaven at the same time? In one word – no. The Church believes that Jesus’ death allows everyone the possibility of heaven, and His mercy grants forgiveness, but His justice demands that good be rewarded and evil punished – in this life or the next. If one man struggles all his life to be good while another lives a life of selfishness, greed, and comfort, both can’t walk through the pearly gates side by side.

As for certain lesser faults, we must believe that, before the Final Judgment, there is a purifying fire. He who is truth says that whoever utters blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will be pardoned neither in this age nor in the age to come. From this sentence we understand that certain offenses can be forgiven in this age, but certain others in the age to come. (Matthew 12:31) This teaching is also based on the practice of prayer for the dead, already mention in Sacred Scripture. “Therefore [Judas Maccabeus] made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin.” 2nd Maccabees 12:46 From the beginning the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God.

Now, it is true, the word “purgatory” does not appear in Scripture, but neither do the words “Trinity” or “incarnation,” yet Scripture squares with both, just as it squares with purgatory. But does purgatory directly, even under some other designation? Maybe. 1 Peter 3:19 states “After His death on the cross, Jesus “went to preach to the spirits in prison.” Who were these people? Not those condemned to hell - no use preaching to them, since nothing could help them. Not those in heaven since heaven was not opened to anyone until after the resurrection. These “spirits in prison” were good people, destined for heaven, who died before heaven was opened through the redemption of the human race.

(Continued on next page)

This verse alone proves that at one time a third state, other than heaven and hell, existed. If that state was purgatory, then Scripture directly mentions purgatory. If that state was not purgatory, then Scripture at least indicates that a third state, apparently much like purgatory, could exist. The Church position is bolstered by 2 Maccabees 12:46, which says, "It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins." Again, this can't refer to the dead in hell, since nothing will loose them from the penalty they undergo, and it can't refer to souls in heaven, since they already have everything one could desire (God himself) and are perfectly clean. They have absolutely no remaining tendency toward sin. Unless it refers to purgatory, 2 Maccabees 12:46 makes no sense.

Yes, I truly believe Christ did accomplish all of our salvation by dying on the Cross, but the Scriptures teach and remind us that it is through sanctification that we are made holy over time, and through other ways that can involve and include suffering. Purgatory is just the final stage of sanctification for any of us in need of purification prior to entering the perfect and eternal banquet of heaven. With this being said, our true concerns should begin by looking into our own hearts now and ask if we now love God completely, without the slightest attachment to sin. For additional reading: CCC paragraph 1030 and 1031. Have a blessed week!



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



Faith gives me hope that my life on earth is not all there is and that, with God's grace, I will be reunited with loved ones who have died. I pray that I will not be disappointed.



- Fr. James Kubicki, S.J.

from his book, A Year of Daily Offerings: Giving Your Life to God One Day at a Time



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 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



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today as we celebrate Christ the King, may we open the door of our hearts so wide that we may listen to the voice of Jesus calling us to help build his kingdom here on earth.

In the month of November, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to help build the kingdom of God by assisting local families, providing food and monetary assistance for utility and rent bills, etc. Thank You!

Some general reminders and guidelines about donating to SVdP:

- For those who 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



***Advent Retreat/Mission:
Go and Make Disciples!***

Saturday, December 13th

9 AM - 3 PM

Speaker: Dennis Daniel

***For retreat details
please see the flyer in Shea Hall.***

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
FINAL WEEK**

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 blue bin 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 24
November 25

St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgi and Martyr



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.