



NOVEMBER 9, 2025 THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

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)
	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 11/10 8:30 AM Raymond Nieman †
Tue 11/11 8:30 AM Pamela Fernanda Gonzales
Wed 11/12 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 11/13 8:30 AM All Souls in Purgatory †
Fri 11/14 8:30 AM Vo Van Thiet † & Judas Thaddaeus †
Sat 11/15 4:00 PM Evelyn Provenzo †
Sun 11/16 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, Dennis 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, Linda Gronberg-Quinn, Robert Schumacher, German Giraldo, Bruce Dunn

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 11/10 9:00 AM Church & Hall Cleaning
Tue 11/11 6:00 PM OCIA - Shea Hall
Wed 11/12
Thu 11/13
Fri 11/14
Sat 11/15 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
Sun 11/16 9:00 AM Sunday Mass

A PRAYER FOR VETERAN'S DAY

Lord God, Almighty Father, creator of mankind and author of peace, as we are ever mindful of the cost paid for the liberty we possess, we ask you to bless the members of our armed forces. Give them courage, hope and strength. May they ever experience your firm support, gentle love and compassionate healing. Be their power and protector, leading them from darkness to light. To you be all glory, honor and praise, now and forever. Amen.

THE BASILICA OF ST. JOHN LATERAN



In the early period of Christianity, the Eucharistic celebration was conducted in private residences provided by certain Christian families, typically those with greater economic resources and larger homes. These settings became known as the original domestic churches, or *domus ecclesiae*. In Rome, the first purpose-built Christian temple was the Lateran Basilica, constructed on land previously occupied by barracks for the emperor's private guard. Pope Sylvester consecrated this basilica in the year 318. Initially named Basilica del Salvador, it was later dedicated, during the medieval era, to Saint John the Baptist and Saint John the Evangelist. Popes resided there for over 1000 years, until the Avignon Papacy.

Today we commemorate the dedication of this Archbasilica. The only Archbasilica in the world. This is the only church building whose dedication is celebrated as a feast. It is an occasion to strengthen our communion with the see of Peter and also to deepen the meaning that sacred buildings have in Christian life, spaces dedicated exclusively to worship. The visible churches are a symbol of the invisible Church, made up of all the baptized as "living and chosen stones" [Collect prayer, *Mass of Dedication of the Lateran Basilica*]. For this reason, on a feast like today's, we ask the Lord that, with his help, we may know how to build the Church and thus reach the definitive dwelling in the heavenly Jerusalem [Prayer after Communion].

The Basilica of St. John Lateran holds the distinction of being the official cathedral of the Pope, rather than St. Peter's Basilica, despite the latter's proximity to the current papal residence. This is attributed to his title as Bishop of Rome. As such, the Basilica is the head and mother church of all churches in the world. On the façade of the basilica there is an inscription in Latin that reads, "the mother and mistress of all churches of Rome and the world." Every bishop has a cathedral and the Pope's cathedral is the Basilica of St. John Lateran, not the Basilica of St. Peter.

In the early centuries, Christianity was prohibited within Rome, resulting in the persecution and martyrdom of numerous Christians. The situation shifted when Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity, and with the promulgation of the Edict of Milan in AD 313, Christians were granted the right to practice their faith openly. Following his conversion, Constantine acquired the Lateranus family's palace in Rome and subsequently granted it to the Pope. The Lateran Palace was transformed into a church, which was formally dedicated on November 9, AD 324, and became the papal residence for nearly a millennium. Initially named the Basilica of the Savior, it was later also dedicated to St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, giving rise to its present appellation, the Basilica of St. John Lateran. When the Papacy relocated to Avignon for approximately a century, the Lateran complex deteriorated. Upon the papal return to Rome, subsequent Popes resided elsewhere before ultimately establishing the papal residence adjacent to St. Peter's Basilica, where it remains today.

(Continued on next page)



The observance of the dedication of the Pope's cathedral serves as an expression of unity with the Pope and demonstrates mutual respect and solidarity within the Church. This occasion also underscores the cohesive nature of the Church, as described by St. Paul in his First Letter to the Corinthians, where he refers to the Church as the Body of Christ.

Our first reading today recounts Ezekiel's vision of a river flowing from the Temple in Jerusalem, imparting life wherever it travels (Ezek 47). This image may be interpreted as representative of the Church receiving grace from Jesus. Similarly, in our second reading, the Letter to the Corinthians affirms this notion: "You are God's building...the foundation...is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor 3:9,11). These scriptural references highlight the importance of establishing Jesus as both the foundation and cornerstone of one's life, illustrating the concept of a life-giving river emanating from him and bestowing grace upon us.

As we commemorate the dedication of "the mother and mistress of all churches of Rome and the world," it is appropriate to pray for those who may have lost their way, that they might encounter the Church as a nurturing presence and recognize Jesus as the essential foundation and cornerstone of their lives.



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.

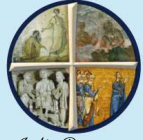
Also, we are always looking for Sponsors and Godparents for our new candidates and catechumens. And whether or not you become a sponsor or godparent, please know that as Catholics in good standing, it is incumbent upon us to help these people on their journey of faith. Please feel free to begin this 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 ❖ sfadeacon7717@gmail.com ❖ 901-493-2123

CATECHISM

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BY: Julie Dew

PRAYING FOR OUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES

Happy November weekend, St. Francis! I do hope ya'll enjoyed the Corners on the Rosary. It truly is a beautiful prayer. And I think I've said this before, the Rosary is a meditative prayer that leads us to a closer and deeper relationship with Jesus. That's what our Mother Mary does, she **ALWAYS** points us to Jesus. Speaking, again, of our Blessed Mother, can you imagine the Annunciation when the angel Gabriel came before her and announced to her that she'd been chosen to be the mother of God? I've reflected on this Mystery many times and have come away with such gratitude for our Heavenly Mother by her "yes." Mother Mary, pray for us!

During the month of November, we set time aside to pray for our loved ones who have passed on... hopefully to their eternal glory. In the next coming weeks I would like to "talk" about praying for the dead and purgatory. Have you heard this before: "The Catholic practice of praying for the dead is unbiblical." I have, and not only is "the practice" Biblical, the practice of praying for the dead is not just Catholic! You read THAT right! First, it isn't only Catholics who pray for the dead. Except in the Protestant community, prayer for the dead is universal among Christians. Further, prayer for the dead has been practiced by Jews since before the time of Christ and continues to be practiced by them today.

In Scripture, Judah Maccabee and his men were retrieving the bodies of fallen comrades when they discovered the men who had fallen were wearing pagan amulets, and so "they turned to prayer, beseeching that the sin which had been committed might be wholly blotted out" (2 Macc. 12:42-46). Protestants may not regard this passage as Scripture, (their "Bible" doesn't contain 1st and 2nd Maccabees) but Catholics do, and it is thus legitimate for us to appeal to it. Whether one regards it as Scripture or not, it constitutes evidence of prayer for the dead among Jews before the time of Christ, and Jews **continue** to pray for the dead today, particularly using a prayer known as the Mourner's Kaddish.

The New Testament also contains a plausible instance of prayer for the dead. After praying for the household of a man named Onesiphorus, Paul goes on to pray "may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day" (2 Tim. 1:18). Paul twice mentions "the household of Onesiphorus" (2 Tim. 1:16, 4:19) but does not greet him with the rest of his household and speaks of him only in the past tense. Many scholars have concluded that Onesiphorus had passed away and consequently Paul was praying for the departed.

And here's something interesting: the Protestant apologist C.S. Lewis writes: "Of course I pray for the dead. The action is so spontaneous, so all but inevitable, that only the most compulsive theological case against it would deter me. . . . At our age the majority of those we love best are dead. What sort of intercourse with God could I have if what I love best were unmentionable to Him?" (Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer, 107). C.S. Lewis was SO Catholic!

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 1032) teaches that prayer for the dead is a holy and wholesome practice, helping the souls in purgatory on their journey to heaven. Thus, Catholic prayer for the dead is firmly rooted in Scripture and Tradition.

May you be blessed this week with the love and peace that can only come from our God!



Grant them eternal rest, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine
upon them. Amen

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



In today's Gospel, Jesus promises that if the temple is destroyed, He will raise it up again in three days. This is the true hope He offers. When you give the furniture, household items and clothing you no longer use to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, you give a sign of hope to your neighbors who have nothing.

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



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 two 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!



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	Toothbrushes	Bar Soap	Ramen Noodle Soup
Macaroni & Cheese	Saltine Crackers	Toothpaste	Kleenex	Chips (individual size)
Peanut Butter Crackers	Bath Tissues	Canned Tuna	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!

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.



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 will be set up next weekend (November 15-16).** 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 SJM 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 10	St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
November 11	St. Martin of Tours, Bishop
November 12	St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr
November 13	St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin
November 15	St. Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor of the Church



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



Everything,
even sweeping, scraping vegetables,
weeding a garden and waiting on the sick could be a prayer,
if it were offered to God.



- St. Martin de Porres
1579 - 1639



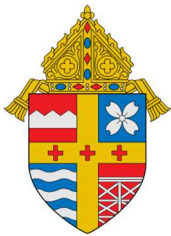
**SECOND COLLECTION - NOVEMBER 15 & 16
FOR THE CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.**

The CCHD collection will be held on November 15 and 16 to help promote and support non-Catholic community-controlled, self-help organizations and education programs.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is the domestic anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, working to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ "... to bring good news to the poor ... release to captives ... sight to the blind, and let the op-

pressed go free." (Luke 4:18)

The belief that those who are directly affected by unjust systems and structures have the best insight into knowing how to change them is central to CCHD. CCHD works to break the cycle of poverty by helping low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives, families and communities. CCHD offers a hand up, not a hand out. Please consider a generous contribution to this very worthwhile campaign.



DIOCESE OF KNOXVILLE JOB OPENING

The Diocese of Knoxville is seeking a Gifts Administrator in the Chancery Stewardship Office. The Gifts Administrator will oversee all aspects of Diocesan stewardship donor relations while utilizing the donor database Raiser's Edge. This is an in-person position (not remote). Please see the Diocesan website for more information and where to send your cover letter and resume: <https://dioknox.org/employment>

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

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.

DEACON FORMATION



BY: DAVID QUINN

BECOMING A DEACON - AN INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

After learning how to pray, our deacon formation turned towards Scripture. Our path to Scripture though went through Vatican II and the key document, Dei Verbum.

Translated, Dei Verbum means 'Word of God.' While Vatican II was focused on how to explain the Catholic Church better for modern times, it always kept its roots in Scripture. Other beautiful documents came out of Vatican II, but Dei Verbum serves a special purpose in understanding and explaining Catholic teachings.

Our initial entry into Scripture was through the Psalms. We were shown the significance of the Psalms in terms of daily prayers (the Liturgy of the Hours) as well as in how they can form some of our views on other Scripture. Our instructor for the Psalms was Sr. Timothea Elliott, a Scripture scholar as well as professor and lecturer in Rome. She read some of the Psalms in the original Hebrew so we could hear the actual poetic rhythms of the Psalms. Hearing the Psalms in the original Hebrew brings the emotions out that are often lost in the English translation.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

*Dorothy Day - Servant of God
1897-1980*

*"We cannot love God unless we love each other.
We know Him in the breaking of bread,
and we know each other in the breaking of bread,
and we are not alone anymore.*

*Heaven is a banquet
and life is a banquet, too,
even with a crust,
where there is companionship."*

