

JANUARY 11, 2026 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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

<p>PASTORFr. 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</p>	<p>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</p>
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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 1/12 8:30 AM The Ruiz Family
Tue 1/13 8:30 AM Dan & Kathy Meyerkord
Wed 1/14 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 1/15 8:30 AM Ruth Hall †
Fri 1/16 8:30 AM Logan Bell
Sat 1/17 4:00 PM Mitch Bailey †
Sun 1/18 9:00 AM Dang Thi Sinh † & Isave Elizabeth †

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, Amy Frink, Claire Cheadle, Elise Martin, Paul Fain, Joyce Fain, Julie Schirack, Marcus Bolte, Stephanie Romer, John & Maria Bermudes, Michael Slater, Rocky Brach, Marion McCaughey, Sue Corsini, Bill Irby, Teresa Williams, Jeffrey Garrison, Ann Day, Ed Welsh, Dale DuRussel, Robert Schumacher, German Giraldo, Jean Claude Augustin, Christopher Schiel, Joyce Schiel, Connor Dietrich

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!



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

*Pope Francis
1936 - 2025*

*“And with the grace
of Baptism
and of
Eucharistic Communion
I can become
an instrument
of God’s mercy,
of that beautiful
mercy of God.”*



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP



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

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon 1/12 9:00 AM Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue 1/13 6:00 PM OCIA - Shea Hall
Wed 1/14
Thu 1/15
Fri 1/16
Sat 1/17 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
Sun 1/18 9:00 AM Sunday Mass



THE THREE CS OF BAPTISM

When it comes to baptism, it comes down to the “Three Cs of Baptism”: Creation, Commitment, and Community.

First: Creation. One distinctive feature of the baptism ritual is that, unlike most other liturgies, it doesn't start with music or prayer. Instead, it opens with a question: “*What name do you give your child?*” Though this may seem straightforward, those seven words carry more significance than they appear to. Everything that comes next depends on this moment. Baptism, which is the initial sacrament in the Christian journey, centers on identity - who we are now and who we will become. Through baptism, our definition changes; we gain a new identity as Catholic Christians. We are transformed, and as the rite proclaims, we are made into a new creation. Having a name and an identity is essential for this transformation. Remember in Genesis, Adam's first task was to name everything around him. Parents who name their child are continuing that legacy and participating in God's creative act. In essence, baptism celebrates creation, embracing its beauty, joy, and awe.

The second C stands for Commitment. This involves both parents - and especially godparents. To be a godparent means dedicating yourself to the Catholic faith and living it faithfully, joyfully, and with enthusiasm. It's about showing your godchildren through your actions, prayers, values, and love what it truly means to live the faith so they might aspire to follow your example. For this reason, the Church requires that at least one godparent must be Catholic. The other may be a baptized Christian, but not a non-Catholic - even if they are close friends and good people. This role goes beyond friendship; it comes with the responsibility of helping to raise the child in the declared faith. During baptism, godparents publicly affirm their belief in Christ, the Trinity, the Virgin Mary, and all core teachings of Catholicism. They promise to support the child in living out these beliefs.

Lastly, we come to the third C: Community. At the start of the ritual, the priest or deacon proclaims, “Aloysius, the Christian community welcomes you with great joy.” The Church observes this sacrament together as a community because it is within community that we pray, celebrate, mourn, and grow as one. The Christian journey isn't meant to be solitary, nor do we celebrate our sacraments alone. This passage also connects us to the man who was baptized in the Jordan River two thousand years ago. Toward the conclusion of the baptism ceremony, a prayer reminds us that baptism allows us to call God our Father. Through baptism, we are also able to call Jesus our brother - the one who leads by example in beginning the mission of spreading the gospel through water and the Spirit.

Friends, his mission has become ours today. The same Spirit that guided him now guides us as we seek to live out the gospel, love without limits, and help renew the world. Baptism provides us with the grace to accomplish this; it transforms each of us into a new creation.



OCIA AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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. For more information please contact Deacon Jim: 901-493-2123 or sfdeacon7717@gmail.com.

CATECHISM

CORNER



BY: Julie Dew

This weekend we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. This feast brings the Christmas Season to an end. So, yes Michael, I'll start taking down the Christmas decorations!

As I've grown and attended many a focus on the Incarnation, I've been told the focus of the Christmas Season is theological rather than historical. And throughout the season of Christmas, we experience the multi-faceted manifestations of God through Jesus Christ, His Son. So, you may find yourself asking the questioning, why did Jesus, He who is without sin, need to get baptized? I know I've asked myself this and have been asked that question before. I

have some powerful information that I would like to share with you today. Fasten your seatbelt!

God anointed Jesus for public ministry through the power of the Holy Spirit. The baptism at the River Jordan is Jesus' ritual celebration of empowerment. He is empowered through the authority of the Voice of God, Lord of the universe. But WHY would it be God's will that Jesus be baptized? One reason is to show His solidarity with sinners. He became one with the sinners He was destined to save by joining them in the same baptismal bath, in the same murky waters of the Jordan. As their leader and their lord, Jesus became one with His people through participation in the same sacrament of renewal with their God. **This would be the first step on the road to the cross.** Jesus was officially empowered by the Holy Spirit for the task of establishing God's reign on earth. In the Gospel of Matthew today Jesus gives the reason for submitting to His baptism by John. Jesus was baptized in order to fulfill God's plan of salvation.....for you.....for me.....for all.

The Christmas Season expresses our unique calling and dignity. Through the manifestation of God to the world, the Incarnation of His Son, human beings were elevated to a divine nature and to the highest dignity. By virtue of our baptism, it is not only our responsibility to care for the world's poor and oppressed, it is our duty and our divine calling. (Pretty powerful – right?) Just as Jesus entered the waters of the Jordan in solidarity with those He would save, so too are we to *jump into* those same waters. The Lord's baptism is a call to *renew* our own baptismal commitment. We are baptized as priest, prophet, and king and as such are commissioned to lead others to Christ, to preach His Good News, and to offer the gift of our lives for others in selfless service. *Word & Worship Workbook for Year A*

This is so important to reflect on these thoughts because of the next season we will be celebrating in the Church year! It is truly amazing how our Catholic Faith prepares each of us for the different seasons of the Church year, but more importantly the seasons of our lives.

I know that this Corner's information was pretty intense, but being a Catholic Christian isn't for sissies my friends! Just listen to the news about our brothers and sisters in Nigeria! Please pray for them.

So, on a lighter note, I'd like to end today's Corner with a Trivia question because it's the last day of the Christmas Season. In the song the 12 Days of Christmas, how many total gifts are given? Answer next week! Have a wonderful week!



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



The faithful are born anew by Baptism,
strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation,
And receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life...



- Pope Paul VI, *Divinae consortium naturae*
1897 - 1978

ADDING ARTWORK TO OUR SANCTUARY

The parish has received an anonymous, directed-donation offer to add four paintings to the sanctuary. The idea is to have a painting of each of the four Gospel writers on each side of the sanctuary next to each stained glass window. St. Matthew and St. Mark would be on the side with the Baptism stained glass window and St. Luke and St. John on the Nativity stained glass window side. The paintings would be the same size as the stained glass windows and would have similar looking framing as the stained glass windows to almost make it appear like we have six stained glass windows in the sanctuary.

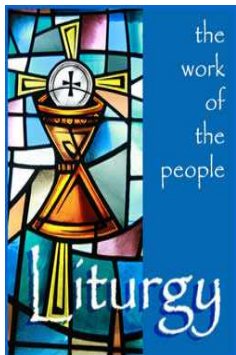
While we would like to take advantage of this offer, we would like some feedback on whether parishioners would support the idea or not. The paintings would be at no cost to the parish and they would be painted by professional artist Michael Corsini, son of Mike and Sue Corsini of our parish. Michael has provided a rough sketch of the sanctuary and descriptions of the theology behind each painting, giving them deeper spiritual meaning. The paintings would be completed around June and hung shortly after that.

We have asked David Quinn to gather the feedback and consolidate the feedback to report out to the parish. Please email him at dquinn@sensibleprocess.com by the end of January with your feedback or any questions about this project.



DIOCESAN JOB OPENING

The Diocese of Knoxville Chancery Office is seeking a Coordinator of Youth Ministry and an Administrative Assistant to the Office of Youth and Young Adults. Please see the diocesan website for detailed job descriptions at <https://dioknox.org/employment>. Send cover letter and resume to Maura Lentz at mlentz@dioknox.org.



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES QUARTERLY SIGN-UPS FOR FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL

It's time for Liturgical Ministries signup! The signup sheets are on the tables/counter in Shea Hall for the next two weekends. Please plan on taking 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	kmmeyerkord@gmail.com
Altar Servers	Dan Meyerkord	708-846-4144	dkam27@sbcglobal.net

* Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

After Jesus was baptized, he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and a voice was heard "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." As we give to the poor, we also can hear these same words. Have you considered joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that you can live your Baptism more fully?

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 JANUARY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" SOUP



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.

SUPERBOWL SUNDAY

Pregame Potluck Party

Sunday
February 8, 2026
3:00 - 6:00 PM
Shea Hall



More Details
and
Signup sheets
In Shea Hall

SAVE THE DATE !!!!

Image courtesy of Freepik.com

SUNDAY MORNINGS COFFEE, PASTRIES, AND FELLOWSHIP

Each Sunday after the 9:00 AM Mass, the congregation is invited into Shea Hall for Coffee, Pastries, and Fellowship. Our parishioners and visitors have really been enjoying this ministry!

YOUR help is needed to supply the pastries each week and to keep this ministry active. **The signup dates for February and beyond are on the light side, and MOST weeks we do not have any parishioners signed up to bring in pastries.** If you are enjoying this ministry and would be able to help out supplying pastries, **please sign up** on the clipboard hanging in the kitchen area in Shea Hall. If you are enjoying this ministry but are unable to help out supplying pastries, perhaps you would be able to help out by supporting this ministry financially. Contributions may be placed in the small collection box on the counter in Shea Hall on Sunday mornings or may be directed to the church office. If you choose to write a check, please make sure that "Sunday Fellowship" is clearly marked in the memo area so that it is recorded accurately. All monies collected will go toward future purchases of coffee, creamer, sweetener, paper products, and plastic utensils. Please contact Donna Czerniewski with your questions or for more information: (847-668-4074).



SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA JANUARY 24 & 25, 2026

A second collection will be taken up at the weekend Masses on January 24 & 25 in support of the pastoral work of the Church in the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America, and South America. Your donation will assist the bishops, priests and religious in countries such as Haiti, El Salvador and Chile in their work of evangelization, the formation of seminarians and religious, catechesis, and youth ministry. Thank you for your generosity in support of the Church in Latin America.

DEACON FORMATION



BY: DAVID QUINN

BECOMING A DEACON – PROPHETS

While studying the Old Testament, we spent time focused on the prophets. Prophets are essentially divided into two groups: major prophets and minor prophets. However, the only thing that really differentiates a major prophet from a minor prophet is the size of their books in the Old Testament. Prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekial, and Daniel have many more chapters than minor prophets like Amos, Joel, Jonah, or Micah.

We tend to think of prophets as people who were foretelling future travesties. Actually, their main job was to remind people of what God wanted for our lives and to get back in alignment with the covenant made with God. Yes, they would talk about the consequences if what they said was not heeded but their primary task was one of reminding people of what was most important in life.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
1/31/26	March For Life Chattanooga, TN	Online: Details Coming Soon E-Mail: N/A Phone: N/A
2/1/26	NFCYM - National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry Louisville, KY	Online: nfcym.org/featured-events/exchange E-Mail: N/A Phone: N/A
2/27/26	SEARCH - Juniors & Seniors St. Therese of Lisieux Cleveland, TN	Online: Scan QR Code on poster in Shea Hall E-Mail: irene.scoggins@gmail.com Phone: 423-596-0053 (Irene Scoggins)
3/6-7/2026	Frazzled in the Vinyard Drury Inn & Suites Knoxville West	Online: Scan QR Code on poster in Shea Hall E-Mail: N/A Phone: N/A
3/8-12 and 3/15-19	Serve4 Spring Break Service Week For 7th and 8th graders Johnston Woods - McDonald, TN	Online: More information on poster in Shea Hall E-Mail: djones@dioknox.org E-Mail: ahenderson@dioknox.org
4/18/2026	CCW Spring Event - 9AM-3PM St. Mary's Church, Athens, TN	Online: N/A E-Mail: ajschaef21@gmail.com Phone: 901-485-1965; OR 423-715-2579 (Brenda Ratcliff)
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)

