



JANUARY 18, 2026
THE SECOND 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 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 1/19 8:30 AM Communion Service (CS)**  
**Tue 1/20 8:30 AM (CS)**  
**Wed 1/21 NO MORNING MASS/Communion Service**  
**Thu 1/22 8:30 AM (CS)**  
**Fri 1/23 8:30 AM (CS) Ada Fendley †**  
**Sat 1/24 4:00 PM Loretta,† Ron & Bob Eberhardt**  
**Sun 1/25 9:00 AM Dang Thi Sih,† 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.

**Fr. Antonio will be out of town January 19 through February 4, 2026.**  
**Dc. Jim will offer communion services (CS) on**  
**Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays during this time.**



**PRAYER REQUESTS:** (Homebound, sick or recovering parishioners, friends and relatives): Amy Frink, Pat Sanders, Doreen Mancuso, Claire Cheadle, Elise Martin, Paul Fain, Joyce Fain, Julie Schirack, Marcus Bolte, Stephanie Romer, John & Maria Bermudes, Michael Slater, Marion McCaughey, Sue Corsini, Bill Irby, Teresa Williams, Jeffrey Garrison, Ann Day, Ed Welsh, Dale DuRussel, Robert Schumacher, German Giraldo, Jean Claude Augustin, Connor Dietrich, Sofia Graziano



Chris and Joyce Schile thank us for praying for them. All reports and tests have come back either negative or within normal range! Thank you, Lord for answered prayers!

**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

*St. Peter Julian Eymard  
1811 - 1868*

*“Happy the soul  
who knows  
how to find Jesus  
in the Eucharist  
and  
the Eucharist in all things.”*

### ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

<b>Mon</b>	<b>1/19</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Church and Hall Cleaning</b>
<b>Tue</b>	<b>1/20</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>OCIA - Shea Hall</b>
<b>Wed</b>	<b>1/21</b>		
<b>Thu</b>	<b>1/22</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>1/23</b>		
<b>Sat</b>	<b>1/24</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Vigil Mass</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>1/25</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Sunday Mass</b>

## LET OUR LIFETIME POINT TOWARD JESUS



### PASTOR'S NOTES

Today is the second Sunday of Ordinary time. The word ordinary in Ordinary time is not to be confused with ordinary as in lackluster, boring, or routine. Ordinary in this instance refers to the ordinal (counted) time. Each Sunday is designated a number that is counted from Sunday to Sunday. The liturgical color of Ordinary time is green.

Ordinary Time's primary focus is the Feast of Sunday. Each Sunday is an Easter celebration of sorts. We remember and celebrate the life of Jesus. Each Sunday the paschal mystery is revealed in its fullness. During Ordinary Time there is no highlighted, singular aspect to the remembered story of Christ as in the other seasons. Rather, all the many faces of Christ's mystery are unfolded on these thirty-three to thirty-four Sundays of the year. Ordinary Time begins right after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Today's gospel does not tell us who the Baptist was addressing when he gave his testimony about Jesus. Perhaps it's us he is talking to. He begins by telling us Jesus is "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." The image of "Lamb" was a very rich image for the Jews. It spoke of the paschal lamb that was sacrificed at Passover and was the main part of the Passover dinner when the Jews celebrated their liberation from slavery and their special covenant with God. It could also refer to the servant of God whom Isaiah writes about who was led like a lamb to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers in his passion. Any of these concepts could apply to Jesus.

The Baptist said Jesus was "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Notice the word "sin." When we recite or sing "lamb of God" before Communion, we say he takes away the "sins" of the world. The singular word "sin" is used as a description of the general state the world finds itself in: Poverty, war, injustice, hatred, dishonesty, killings, sexual perversion, greed, unnecessary suffering, etc. Our sins (plural) are expressions of our participation in the sinful environment we live in. On the other hand, our good actions are expressions of the kingdom of God Christ came to establish.

John the Baptist thought he knew Jesus and knew Jesus was holier than he was, that's why he didn't feel worthy to baptize him. But through the signs that took place when Jesus was baptized, the Baptist came to know Jesus much more profoundly: that he was the one to take away the sin of the world, the one to initiate God's kingdom, the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus allowed John to baptize him with water in the Jordan at the start of his public ministry, John saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain on Jesus.

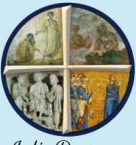
At baptism, a child or adult is initiated into the life of the Church and re-born as a child of God. Through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist, a person is fully initiated into the Body of Christ. But it is not supposed to end there. It is our responsibility as Christians to reflect Christ's love and light to others through word and deed.

In the silence where we meet God and God alone, let us ask ourselves: "How can I be a better disciple?" With the ears of our hearts, let us listen carefully to the guidance we receive from the Holy Spirit. Then, let us ask for the courage to be obedient and to do what we are told. All that John the Baptist did in his lifetime pointed toward Jesus. Let it be so with us.



## CATECHISM

CORNER



BY: Julie Dew

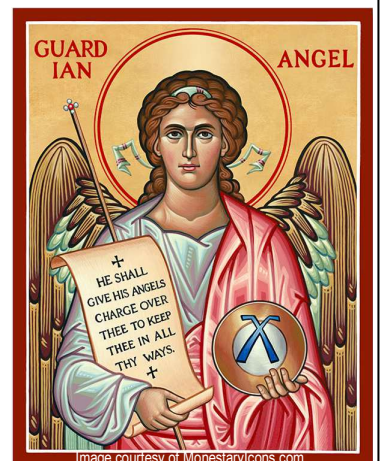
Hellllooooo St. Francis! A while back, in December, I mentioned, briefly/talked about the appearance of angels. Well, in this Corner I would like to “talk” about angels. As I mentioned a few “Corners” back – I think in October (WOW time flies!) – about the Annunciation, which is the First Joyful Mystery, I’ve had a couple of questions about angels. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is clear about the existence of angels. “The existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls “angels” is a truth of faith. The witness of Scripture is as clear as the agreement of Tradition. St. Augustine says: “Angel’ is the name of their office, not of their nature. If you seek the name of their nature, it is ‘spirit’; if you seek the name of their office, it is ‘angel’: from what they are, ‘spirit’, from what they do, ‘angel.’” With their whole beings, the angels are servants and messengers of God. Because they “always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven” they are the “mighty ones who do his Word, hearkening to the voice of his Word.” As purely spiritual creatures, angels have intelligence and will: they are personal and immortal creatures, surpassing in perfection all visible creatures, as the splendor of their glory bears witness.” – CCC 328-330

Saint Thomas Aquinas explains angels as "intellectual substances," and they are organized into three hierarchies and nine choirs, including Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Principalities, Powers, Virtues, Archangels, and Angels. Saint Michael is an Archangel, belonging to the realm of Principalities, and is especially venerated for his role as defender (Daniel 10:13, Jude 1:9). Gabriel and Raphael are other named angels known from Scripture (Luke 1, Tobit 12). The variety among angels is greater than among humans because spiritual beings possess their nature intensely and perfectly (Fr. Hugh Barbour). Thus, the Church affirms a rich angelic hierarchy with distinct roles and persons. – catholic.com

I’m hoping to expand a little regarding the different hierarchies and choirs in the next couple of corners – ok? Right now, I’d like to briefly discuss our guardian angels: Each person is given a guardian angel from birth, not merely at baptism, to protect and guide them throughout life (CCC 336). Jesus Himself affirms this in Matthew 18:10: "See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven." The Church Fathers, like Saint Basil, Saint Jerome, and Saint Thomas Aquinas, uphold this truth. Vatican II’s *Lumen Gentium* also acknowledges angels as part of God’s plan. Denying angels contradicts the Church’s Magisterium and the Creed’s profession of belief in "visible and invisible" creation. Angels are not mere bystanders but active protectors and intercessors, assisting us in the cosmic battle against evil (Ephesians 6:12). This belief is not childish but rooted in Scripture and Tradition, affirming God’s loving care for each soul. Speaking of being a child do you remember that sweet prayer: Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God’s love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen. This is a prayer that I would end the school day with as the students went out into the world.

This prayer is suitable for people of all ages and is particularly fitting for children, making it a perfect tool for teaching young ones about the constant presence of God’s protective love. Reciting this prayer fosters a sense of spiritual security and companionship, reminding believers that they are never alone in their journey through life.

Oh, I almost forgot! Here’s the answer to last week’s trivia question: 364, just one short of a gift for every day of the year. That includes 12 partridges, 22 turtle doves, 30 French hens, 36 calling birds, 40 gold rings, 42 geese a-laying, 42 swans a-swimming, 40 maids a-milking, 36 ladies dancing, 30 lords a-leaping, 22 pipers piping, and 12 drummers drumming. Have a blessed week!



### 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](mailto:dquinn@sensibleprocess.com) by the end of January with your feedback or any questions about this project.

**“You are called by God. He does not always call the qualified—but he always qualifies the called. Have faith in him.”**

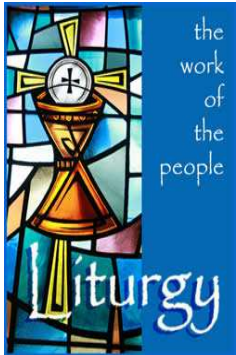
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 [DynamicCatholic.com](http://DynamicCatholic.com)

### 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](mailto:mlentz@dioknox.org).



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

This is the final weekend for Liturgical Ministries sign-up! The sign-up sheets are on the tables/counter in Shea Hall. Please take a few minutes after Mass this weekend 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	<a href="mailto:marthafrink00@gmail.com">marthafrink00@gmail.com</a>
EMHC*	Karen Messenger	225-572-9400	<a href="mailto:kommessenger@gmail.com">kommessenger@gmail.com</a>
Ushers	Paul Czerniewski	847-877-7347	<a href="mailto:paul.czerniewski@gmail.com">paul.czerniewski@gmail.com</a>
Sacristans	Kathy Meyerkord	630-698-5563	<a href="mailto:kmmeyerkord@gmail.com">kmmeyerkord@gmail.com</a>
Altar Servers	Dan Meyerkord	708-846-4144	<a href="mailto:dkam27@sbcglobal.net">dkam27@sbcglobal.net</a>

\* Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel after Jesus was baptized, John testified saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove...and remain upon him." As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, know that you are a sign of God's Spirit of love to those who are suffering.

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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
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



## THE BISHOP'S APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES IS UNDERWAY

The Bishop's Appeal for Ministries begins with a mailing that many of our parishioners have received or will soon receive. Your gift not only funds many of the operations of the Diocese of Knoxville, but it also funds services that are of great help to the ministries here in our parish. Each Appeal gift enables the diocese to build up the kingdom of God throughout East Tennessee. God gives us all that we have. Even when we want to believe that our successes are self-made, we know that it is God who has blessed us abundantly with all we have. He is always giving to us. His grace is always there for us. One way that we can show our gratitude is by offering our generous financial support to our parish and to our diocese and to the Church throughout the world.

### The schedule for the 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal Campaign is:

January 24-25 .....	Announcement Weekend
January 31 - February 1 .....	Commitment Weekend (in-pew process)
February 7-8.....	Follow-up Weekend announcement

The gifts that we give enable ministries, education and services that touch thousands of lives. Please make a commitment to the annual appeal. Thank you in advance for your support.



## 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.



## 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.



## Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM

“ Being a disciple of Jesus Christ means making a radical commitment to love and obey the Lord in every word action, and attitude, striving to radiate His love to others. ”

- Marcus Grodi  
1952 - present

# 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: <a href="http://nfcym.org/featured-events/exchange">nfcym.org/featured-events/exchange</a> 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: <a href="mailto:irene.scoggins@gmail.com">irene.scoggins@gmail.com</a> 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: <a href="mailto:djones@dioknox.org">djones@dioknox.org</a> E-Mail: <a href="mailto:ahenderson@dioknox.org">ahenderson@dioknox.org</a>
4/18/2026	CCW Spring Event - 9AM-3PM St. Mary's Church, Athens, TN	Online: N/A E-Mail: <a href="mailto:ajschaef21@gmail.com">ajschaef21@gmail.com</a> 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)

## SAINTS BE PRAISED!

- January 20** St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr
- January 20** St. Sebastian, Martyr
- January 21** St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr
- January 23** St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr
- January 23** St. Marianne Cope, Virgin
- January 24** St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church