



MARCH 1, 2026
2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

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	3/2	8:30 AM	Kate Schirdewahn +
Tue	3/3	8:30 AM	Kevin Walker +
Wed	3/4	NO MORNING MASS	
Thu	3/5	8:30 AM	Virginia K. Frievalt +
Fri	3/6	8:30 AM	Edith Webb +
Sat	3/7	4:00 PM	Carl King Jr. +
Sun	3/8	9:00 AM	All Souls in Purgatory +

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): Amy Frink, Pat Sanders, Doreen Mancuso, Claire Cheadle, 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, Mark Reddan, Terry Keran, Beryl Quinton, Obed Sexton, the Gruber Family



We have been praying the last few weeks for Mark Gruber. The Gruber family is certain that, through our prayers, Mark was able to accept his imminent death (2/24/26) and chose to meet with people during his last days that he loved and cared about to say goodbye. Mark's father died the night before he did - the Gruber family, as a whole, is also now in much need of our prayers. Thank you, Lord for answered prayers - even when the answer is not what we hoped for - thy will, not ours, be done.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: During the Lenten season, we change our sanctuary floral decorations from fresh cut flowers to dried floral arrangements to reflect the dry period of Jesus' 40 days in the desert.



If, after the Lenten season 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	3/2	9:00 AM	Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue	3/3	6:00 PM	OCIA - PRC
Wed	3/4	5:00 PM	SVdP - Shea Hall
Thu	3/5		
Fri	3/6	5:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
Sat	3/7	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	3/8	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass
		10:30 AM	No Greater Love Lenten Study Group - PRC

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!



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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



HEARING AND UNDERSTANDING OUR CALL TO HOLINESS

A few years ago, we were discussing in a Priest meeting ways to effect a big transformation in our parish life. We were asked about ways to draw hundreds of people to our parish. What should we become in order to draw many people to our Church? There were many proposals and ideas. However, the one that seemed to fulfill our purpose of being Church was to become schools for "holiness."

In today's second letter from St. Paul to Timothy, Paul refers to holiness as the purpose of salvation. Many today, as faithful as they can be to practices of faith, believe that holiness is beyond us, that holiness is something reserved for the saints of old or for the exceptional people who publicly dedicate their lives to priesthood or religious life. It just doesn't seem possible for most of us mere mortals to be holy, at least not if we grew up believing holiness is about moral perfection or obvious piety, and certainly not if we believe that holiness is the result of willpower.

Here we are today, hearing the call to holiness, an echo of what began centuries ago in the Jewish Scriptures. In the Book of Leviticus, we associate with many laws and regulation. We read at least six times that God tells his people, "Be holy, for I am holy." God is not directing these words to the priestly class or the scholars; God is directing them to his entire people.

Last Sunday we heard in the Book of Genesis, the beautiful narrative of the creation of man and woman. In today's gospel, we are invited to be transfigured as Jesus was. The Transfiguration is an invitation to contemplate the divine purpose of creation, the divine purpose of life on our planet. We are invited to a higher level of "consciousness." Jesus invites us to experience what it is to live in relationship with God, the Holy One. That holiness begins to seep into our lives as well, as we become more and more like the Holy One who call us by name and who shapes us as a people.

To be holy is to be set apart. It is God who sets us apart, not in a way that removes us from reality as if it is not worthy of our attention, but in a way that allows us to see the world and ourselves from a divine perspective. God sets us apart so that we will invest ourselves in the work of building the kingdom of God right in the midst of our daily demands.

Someone said, holiness right here and now looks like a mom who commits herself to creating a home where discipline is matched with love and forgiveness. It looks like an old man who can no longer work productively, but refuses to become bitter. Holiness looks like a community lifting up a family in prayer and practical support during a difficult time. It looks like a worker who steadily lifts up others so that they learn to shine in their own work. Holiness looks like you as you grow in your desire to experience the loving mercy of God and share it with others.



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



Holiness is not only for those who spend much time in prayer.
That is not the case.

We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love
and bearing witness in everything we do.

- Pope Francis
1936 - 2025



CATECHISM

ORNER



BY: Julie Dew

AN EXPLANATION OF ROMAN CRUCIFIXION

This anti-human view of slaves by the Romans is magnified by looking at the sheer volume of slaves who were crucified. The generational crucifixion of slaves was a reality alluded to around 205 B.C. in the play *Miles Gloriosus* written by Titus Maccius Plautus. The character Sceledrus states, "I know the cross will be my grave: that is where my ancestors are, my father, grandfathers, great-grandfathers, great-great-grandfathers." That's an even more sobering thought when considering how large the slave class was in the Roman Empire. Slavery was not the unhappy circumstance of only a handful of people. On the contrary, Strauss estimates the number of slaves in Italy at the time of Spartacus's uprising (73 B.C.) was between one and one-and-a-half million. After that uprising, six thousand slaves were crucified, which was not an isolated event. Strauss notes that one of the mass crucifixions involved "2000 rebels crucified in Judaea by the Roman official Quintilius Varus in 4 B.C." But it was not just slave uprisings that led to crucifixions; Hengel notes that Caligula and Domitian "crucified imperial slaves . . . at their whim." Seneca stated that slaves broadly lived "under the certain threat of crucifixion." As to the method of Roman crucifixion, the procedure generally occurred in three distinct stages: scourging at a pillar, the forced carrying of the cross, and nailing the victim to the cross where he would eventually die. Each stage consisted of a tortured madness in which human misery was viewed as entertaining theater." Catholic Answers Insiders Newsletter May 2025

When we reflect on the last stage as "entertaining theater," we really shouldn't be too harsh on the people of this ancient time frame because we only need to look at society today with all of its ills of human trafficking, pornography, the blood and gore of horror movies to name just a few. This is the "entertainment" of the "modern" world. In my opinion, we really haven't changed that much. What do you think?

Here's some "tips" to help you with your 3 disciplines of Lent:

PRAY for priests, deacons, religious, missionaries, and social activists today who are trying

to make the world a better place from the ground up.

FAST from putting yourself first today - no matter where you are or what you are doing,

put the needs of the "other" in front of your own.

GIVE a meal to someone - take a coworker out to lunch, buy a sandwich for a homeless person, or make dinner for friend who could use a break from cooking.



Image courtesy of crosswalk.com

Remember, during these 40 days of Lent we are all on this journey together supporting each other, praying for each other and encouraging each other by our actions and words. Have a wonderful week!



ST. FRANCIS WORDS OF WISDOM - JUBILEE YEAR 2026



*"Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures,
especially through my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day;
and you give light through him.
And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor!
Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.*

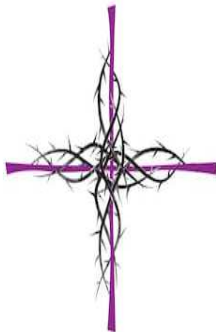


*- St. Francis of Assisi
1181 - 1226*

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAY 3/6/2026 - 5:00 PM

FACILITATED BY THE CCW MINISTRY
MEATLESS LENTEN SUPPER TO FOLLOW



Praying the stations of the cross - especially on Lenten Fridays - is a beautiful, spiritual experience and a wonderful way to enhance your Lenten journey. Please plan on joining your parish family in this beloved tradition. For more information please see the Lenten schedule inserted in this week's bulletin, on the website, and on the bulletin board in Shea Hall. There

may also be some copies on the table in the church vestibule.

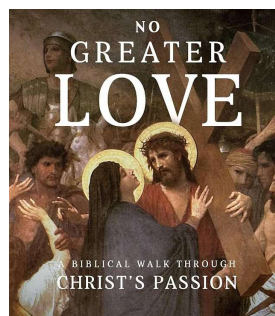
This year, since Pope Leo has declared 2026 as a Jubilee Year for St. Francis of Assisi, each facilitating ministry will be offering a mini-presentation on the life of St. Francis after each Lenten supper.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST



*Pope St. Leo the Great
c. 400-461*

*"Our sharing
in the Body and Blood of Christ
has no other purpose
than to transform us
into that
which we receive."*



**LENTEN STUDY GROUP
SUNDAY, MARCH 1
(SESSION 2)
10:30 AM IN THE PRC**

No Greater Love is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Best-selling author Edward Sri guides

you through the last hours of Christ's life. You will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. Experience a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love for you - grow closer to Jesus than you ever have before. For more information please contact Julie Dew 954-749-3929; jdewtn2018@att.net

Sunday, March 8th 2:00 AM



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
Spring
FORWARD



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel Jesus is transfigured and a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased: Listen to him." Do we listen to Jesus when he asks us to take care of our brothers and sisters who are suffering? Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God's love this Easter.

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 MARCH "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" RICE A RONI AND PASTA SIDES



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!



EAST TENNESSEE CATHOLIC 2026 READER POLL

We want to hear from you!



Use QR code to take brief survey



The East Tennessee Catholic
2026 Reader Poll



The East Tennessee Catholic newspaper is conducting a diocese-wide reader poll during Lent this year and they need our help to ensure the results reflect the voice of every parish in the diocese.

The poll is live now through the end of March and is advertised in both the February and March editions of the newspaper. The goal is to better understand who is reading the newspaper, what content resonates most with readers, and how the faithful can best be served in the pews for years to come.

In addition to the digital option of participation, 1,000 paper surveys will be mailed out to randomly selected reader households. If you prefer a paper copy, please call or email the diocese office to request one: Ebooker@dioknox.org; 865-584-3307 ask for Emily Booker.

Please take a few minutes to complete the brief poll and share your insights. Your perspective helps our diocesan newspaper understand its role in your life and how to best serve the East Tennessee Catholic community for years to come.

'PRAY WITH THE POPE' INITIATIVE

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network and the Dicastery for Communication announced January 7, 2026 the "Pray with the Pope" project. According to a press release, this is a new initiative in which the pope will share his monthly prayer intentions through both video and audio, "inviting the universal Church and all people of goodwill to unite spiritually, using the same prayer that will now be led by the pope himself."

"This initiative aims to increase the visibility of the pope's prayer intentions, using a language suitable for prayer, in new formats, so as to better reach the faithful throughout the world, especially in today's world of digital communication," the press release stated.

In the full video shared on the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network website, Pope Leo recites an original prayer written specifically for this month's prayer intention. To the right is the pope's full prayer for March.



**Pope's Worldwide
Prayer Network**

POPE LEO'S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION MARCH 2026

For Disarmament and Peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.



Antoine Mekary | ALETHEIA

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026 SPECIAL HOLY HOUR OF ADORATION

3:00 PM

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Scripture Readings
Praying the Rosary (with special text)
Praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Benediction

Jesus, I Trust in You



SECOND COLLECTION ON MARCH 14 & 15 FOR CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), is the international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Bishops and Catholic community. With your generosity, CRS is helping to break the cycle of poverty in more than 90 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. CRS also provides emergency relief in the wake of natural disasters. Your donation also assists the work of the U.S. Bishops' Offices of International Justice and Peace, Migration and Refugee Services and Pastoral Care, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, and the relief work of the Holy Father. Thank you for your generous donation to this very important organization!

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
3/6-8/2026	Retrouvaille Retreat - Nashville, TN	Online: HelpOurMarriage.com E-Mail: 3043@helpourmarriage.org Phone: 931-820-2115
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
3/14/2026	Knoxville St. Patrick's Day Parade 1:00 PM	Online: https://knoxstpatricksparade.com/ Click on "Registration Is Open" Icon
4/5/26	Easter Sunday Masses: 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM	Online: StFrancisTownsend.org Shea Hall: Lenten Schedule on Liturgy Bulletin Board
4/18/2026	CCW Spring Event - 9AM-3PM St. Mary's Church, Athens, TN	Online: N/A E-Mail: ajschae21@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)

