



APRIL 12, 2026 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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
BOOKKEEPER Kathleen 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 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 4/13 8:30 AM Shirley Keeven †
Tue 4/14 8:30 AM John & Yvonne Peychal
Wed 4/15 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 4/16 8:30 AM Bill Irby †
Fri 4/17 8:30 AM Udo Van Zabuesnig †
Sat 4/18 4:00 PM Elizabeth I-Save † Dang Thi Sinh †
Sun 4/19 9:00 AM Shirley Darlene Modisett †

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, 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, Betty Gonzalez, Carmen Milton, Carolyn & Bruce Haverkos, Marlene Doerrer, Monica Meyerkord

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!



ST. FRANCIS WORDS OF WISDOM JUBILEE YEAR 2026



*Most high and glorious God,
enlighten the dark places
of my heart.*



- St. Francis of Assisi
1181 - 1226



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	4/13	9:00 AM	Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue	4/14		
Wed	4/15	5:00 PM	SVdP - Shea Hall
Thu	4/16		
Fri	4/17		
Sat	4/18	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	4/19	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass



GOD'S MERCY IS CONSTANT AND UNWAVERING

Today we gather in joy and hope to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday - a feast that invites us to ponder the boundless mercy that flows unceasingly from the heart of Jesus. Instituted by Saint John Paul II, whose own life was shaped by tragedy and redemption, this day stands as a radiant reminder that God's love surpasses all understanding. For those weighed down by guilt or sorrow, Divine Mercy Sunday offers not only consolation but a promise: no sin is too great for God's forgiveness, no wound too deep for His healing.

The image of the Divine Mercy, with rays of red and pale light streaming from Christ's heart, encapsulates the hope and forgiveness offered to all humanity. Each ray represents blood and water - symbols of the sacraments and the new life they bring. When Jesus appeared to Saint Faustina Kowalska, He implored her - and, through her, all of us - to trust in His mercy and to make it known throughout the world. The words "Jesus, I trust in You" are not merely a prayer, but a way of life, a guiding principle as we journey through our days.

Today's Gospel reveals Jesus appearing to His disciples, who are trembling with fear behind locked doors after the Resurrection. They are lost, uncertain, and burdened by their own failures, especially Peter, who had denied Him. But Jesus does not chastise them. Instead, He breathes peace upon them, showing His wounds as undeniable proof of love triumphant over death. He says, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them." In this moment, Christ entrusts the power of reconciliation to His Church, reminding us that mercy is a divine gift meant to be shared.

This encounter with the Risen Lord teaches us something profound: mercy is not earned but freely given. It is offered to the doubting Thomas, to Peter the denier, to each disciple who faltered. If Jesus can forgive His closest friends, how much more will He welcome us, who seek Him with humble hearts?

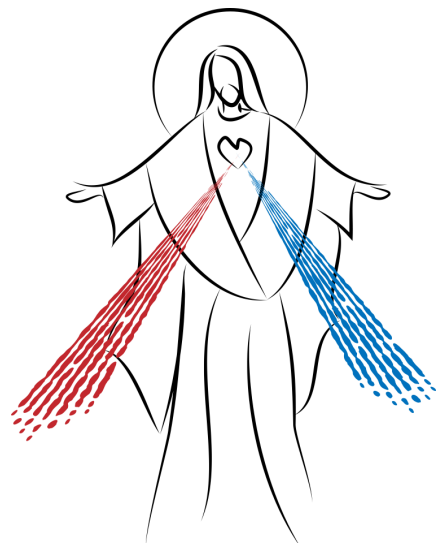
The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a precious gift, allowing us to encounter God's mercy anew. When we approach the confessional with sincere hearts, we are met not with condemnation but with loving acceptance. The priest, acting in the person of Christ, pronounces the words of absolution, and we are reborn. This sacrament is not a burden but a liberation - a chance to lay down our guilt and rise again. Many have felt the relief that comes from confession, the lightness after being forgiven. One young man, struggling with addiction, found himself overwhelmed by shame. But after confessing his faults, he left the church with renewed hope, encouraged by the priest to keep striving. The road to healing is not always easy, but God's mercy is constant and unwavering.

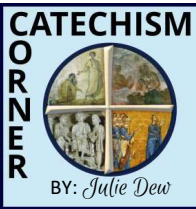
“Jesus I Trust In You”

Sunday, April 12, 2026
3:00 PM

Divine Mercy Holy Hour

Please join your parish family
in the church!





THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Good and beautiful Divine Mercy Sunday which is the Second Sunday of the Easter Season. And all my brothers and sisters that go to the Saturday Vigil Mass – this includes ya'!!!

Divine Mercy Sunday is a liturgical title and devotional observance instituted by Pope St. John Paul II in 2000 for the Sunday after Easter, which is the Second Sunday of Easter. The observance honors God's mercy as revealed in the private revelations granted to St. Maria

Faustina Kowalska and is rooted in the Church's public revelation of Christ's saving mercy.

The day's liturgical texts remain those of the Second Sunday of Easter, the Gospel of the unbelieving Thomas, while the title "Divine Mercy Sunday" directs pastoral attention to Christ's merciful love and to the devotions associated with St. Faustina's Diary. The designation is an authoritative ecclesial recognition that the private revelation harmonizes with the Gospel and is fitting for public devotion.

Popular devotional elements associated with the day include the Divine Mercy Novena (often begun on Good Friday), the Divine Mercy Chaplet prayed at the "Hour of Mercy" (3 p.m.), and veneration of the image revealed to St. Faustina. The chaplet and novena are approved private devotions intended to deepen trust in God's mercy.

A special plenary indulgence is attached to Divine Mercy Sunday when the faithful fulfill the usual conditions for a plenary indulgence by undertaking the following: sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, prayers for the pope's intentions and together with the specific works required for the Divine Mercy devotion. These are prayers and devotions in the presence of the Eucharist, recitation of the Our Father and the Creed, and a devout prayer to Jesus. Sacramental confession may be satisfied within a period of twenty days before or after the feast (ok, I did not know this!), according to the Apostolic Penitentiary's norms. In contexts concerning the Sunday obligation, "Eucharist" refers to participation in the Mass (attendance), which fulfills the obligation even when Holy Communion is not received.

We have planned a special Divine Worship Prayer Service today, Sunday at 3:00 pm. I pray that everyone that reads this will attend!

Have a beautiful week filled with many blessings from our Risen Lord and Savior!

YOU HAVE PUT ON CHRIST!

Congratulations to our newest Neophytes Ocean, Brooke, Thomas, and Logan on receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil Celebration! We are thrilled to have you as members of our parish family!





Easter Flowers

This year's Easter Flowers have been donated by several parishioners
in memory or honor of someone they know.

In Memory of

Joe and Julia Sendra
Betty and Joe Tkatch
Katherine Kirkham
Ted & Violet Jastrab
Joseph & Marlena Rytel
LeRoy and Harriet Burrell
Bernard and Loretta Eberhardt
Raymond and Joann Nieman
The Arnold Korth Family
Ralph & Herma Peychal
Michael O'Brien
Kerry Lee O'Brien

Ron Fallat
Bonnie Green
Ralph & Irene Meyerkord
John & Theresa Peacock
Gay Mackey
Harlin and Sophia Harbit
Lawrence and Euthema Davis
Julie Barrett
Paul and Sharon Durm
Norman & Lucille Weiland
David Holmes
Doug DuRussel

Frank & Betty Czerniewski
Kathleen Denning
Jesse & Gloria Colvin
Mario & Natalie Bumbara
Raymond and Mary Smith
Dora Morris
Edward Maguire
Philip Peychal
Alexander Malocha
Marion Ganley
Craig Stephenson
Ernest and Mary Floyd

Friends, relatives, and those who gave their lives in service to others
Living and Deceased members of the McAdams Family
Living and Deceased members of the Mularski Family
Deceased member of the Nenadovich Family
Deceased members of the Wilson Family
Deceased members of the Szekely Family

In Honor of

Fr. Antonio Giraldo
Nora Davis



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today, Jesus stands in the midst of us and says: "Peace be with you!" During Mass we turn to each other and say, "Peace be with you!" As you put your gift into the St. Vincent de Paul box you say, "Peace be with you!" to those who are poor and hungry.

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 APRIL "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY



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.



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!



SECOND COLLECTION - CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL APRIL 25 & 26, 2026

Please be generous in supporting the Catholic Home Missions Appeal on April 25th and 26th. This collection helps to strengthen the Catholic Church in the United States in its 87 mission territories. As the Diocese of Knoxville is one of the smallest dioceses in the nation, it is a direct beneficiary of Catholic Home Missions assistance. Your generosity in support of this appeal is greatly appreciated for the additional blessings it brings to our diocese. Thank you!

Sunday May 3, 2026

Save
the
Date

Parish Potluck
Shea Hall
4:00 - 7:00 PM

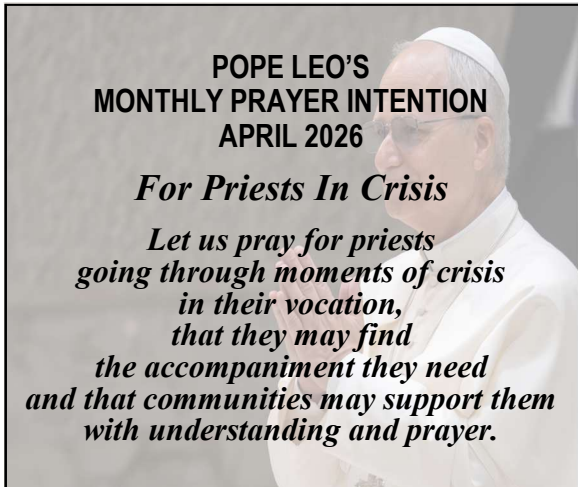
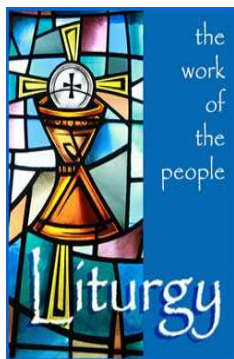
More details coming.....



POPE LEO'S
MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION
APRIL 2026

For Priests In Crisis

*Let us pray for priests
going through moments of crisis
in their vocation,
that they may find
the accompaniment they need
and that communities may support them
with understanding and prayer.*

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES QUARTERLY SIGN-UPS FOR MAY, JUNE AND JULY

It is time for Liturgical Ministries signup! The signup boards are "floating around" in Shea Hall - either on the counter or one of the tables. 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	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

OUR VERY OWN CCW GOLDEN ROSE !

St. Francis CCW was proudly represented at the Smoky Mountain Deanery CCW Spring meeting March 18, by "Violet" Grace Rapien as our Golden Rose candidate. Other nominees were from Our Lady of Fatima, the Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart, and Holy Ghost. This is the second year the Dioceses has sponsored this event, with the selected winner from each of the four Deaneries attending the National NCCW Convention. The Golden Rose is designed for young women between 14 and 21 who exemplify spirituality, leadership and service to their parish and community.

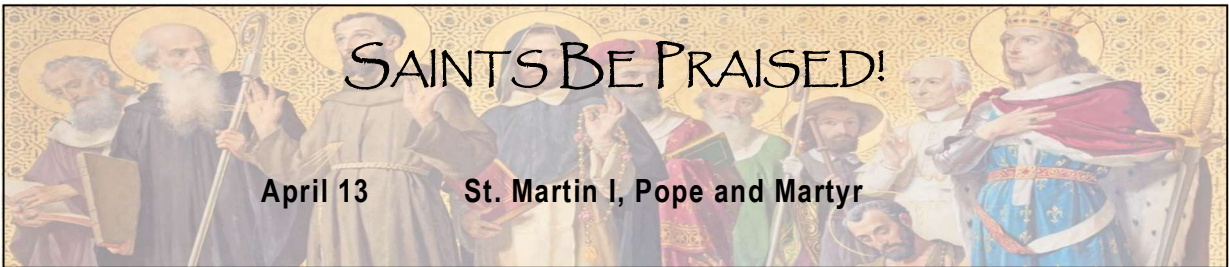
We are honored to have Grace as a perfect example of these special qualities representing us at the Parish level. Several gifts were presented to the girls: a rose motif bracelet, certificate, a yellow rose, and a special gift representing faith and strength by SMDCCW's Spiritual Directory, Suzi Fay.

Congratulations Gracie!!!



UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
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)
4/24/26	Catholic Men's Emmaus Retreat Christ Prince of Peace Retreat Ctr. Benton, TN	Online: https://dioknox.org/events/mens-emmaus-retreat E-Mail: mikehartfl1987 Phone: 423-414-4532 (Michael Hart)



SAINTS BE PRAISED!

April 13 St. Martin I, Pope and Martyr



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

*“You left us Yourself in the Sacrament of the Altar,
and you opened wide your mercy to us.
There is no misery that could exhaust You;
You have called us all to this fountain of love,
to this spring of God’s compassion.”*

- St. Faustina Kowalska
1905 - 1938

Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



*At Easter, we rejoice because Christ did not remain in the tomb,
His body did not see corruption;
He belongs to the world of the living, not to the world of the dead;
We rejoice because He is the Alpha and also the Omega,
as we proclaim in the rite of the Paschal Candle;
He lives not only yesterday, but today and for eternity.*



- Pope Benedict XVI