



APRIL 19, 2026 3RD 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
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 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 4/20 8:30 AM Barbara Carter †
Tue 4/21 8:30 AM Fr. Joseph Mary Hammond, CHS †
Wed 4/22 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 4/23 8:30 AM Bishop Emeritus, Richard Stika †
Fri 4/24 8:30 AM Peggy Monahan †
Sat 4/25 4:00 PM Jeanne Vilardo †
Sun 4/26 9:00 AM Lila Laney †

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: The Sanctuary candle is lit in honor of Camilla Sorrell. 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

“We have been called to heal wounds,
to unite what has fallen apart,
And to bring home those
who have lost their way.”

- St. Francis of Assisi
1181 - 1226

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	4/20	9:00 AM	Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue	4/21		
Wed	4/22		
Thu	4/23		
Fri	4/24		
Sat	4/25	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	4/26	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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



PASTOR'S NOTES

“I WILL BE WITH YOU ALWAYS”

Today's gospel is a story of discouragement and hope. We all experience discouragements and disappointment at times throughout our lives. We even get discouraged with God. St. Luke tells us a story today about how two people met with discouragement after seeing how Jesus had been put to death. They had hoped he would drive the Romans out of Israel and restore freedom and self-government to Israel. When Jesus died their hopes were shattered and they walked away. We can certainly identify with this sentiment as we consider how our plans and dreams have been altered, maybe even shattered, by events both global

and personal: pandemics and financial downturns, wars, family illness and grief, employment crisis and lost loves. There is heaviness in this Emmaus story, and it is a heaviness that we can recognize in our own journeys. How often we want to walk away from God when he doesn't do the things we want him to do.

Even when we turn our back to God, he doesn't turn his back to us. St. Luke wants us to know that even in our discouragement and disappointment we are not alone. We may not recognize God's presence as we go. But it's there. Most of us remember the poem that was very popular a few years ago: *Footprints In the Sand*. He promised us: "I will be with you always."

In the light of Easter and the risen Christ, we, too, are given the opportunity to linger in the heaviness of dashed hopes. This Emmaus journey can be viewed as a lifetime walk with Jesus as we struggle with what could have been, what we wanted, and where we go from here. Today's gospel reminds us that even when we don't recognize it, Jesus is walking with us on this journey, allowing us to grieve while also preparing our hearts for the next steps. With the psalmist of today's responsorial psalm, we can be confident that God's presence breaks into our lives, never abandons us, and shows us the path of life.

St. Luke is telling us also that in hard times, the Scriptures can throw new light on the difficulties we are having. Jesus helped these two disciples to understand the Scriptures better, renewing their hope. As they said, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" I don't know about you, but I can't count how many times that has happened to me that when I felt discouraged, God's word lifted my spirits. God's word is always a word that gives hope.

As the story goes on, the disciples invited the stranger to stay with them longer. Before they knew it, Jesus was breaking bread with them and suddenly they recognized Jesus and they knew he was alive. Luke used the same gestures to describe what Jesus did in the Last Supper.

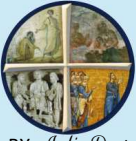
There is one last piece to this story, the two disciples returned to the community of believers. They had given up their hope in Jesus as the savior of God's people and they walked away from the community of those still gathered in Jerusalem who believed in him. Their encounter with Christ on the road, in the Scriptures, in the hospitality they offered him, in the breaking of bread, restored all their hope and joy. And they came back to the Church, the community of believers they had left. It is there they continue to remain united with Christ.

When disappointment fills our hearts with sadness and darkness, we can let it consume us or we can let God help us find light and healing, for God is our only hope.



CATECHISM

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BY: *Julie Dew*

JUDAS (SON OF SIMON) ISCARIOT - WHO WAS HE REALLY?

Happy and blessed Third Sunday of Easter! OK, Let's get down to business! I mentioned briefly a couple of weekends ago that we will "talk" about the different "players," events or little tidbits of the Passion of Jesus Christ. When we read or listen to the Passion narrative it's like a dramatic portrayal of the most significant event in human history. It's cast of characters reads like a Shakespearean tragedy complete with hero and antagonist. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the irony of this is that "The Son of David" enters David's city but the only throne He finds is a cross.

So, who should we talk about first? How about Judas? I did write a Corner about Judas quite a while ago. But let's review a little. Judas Iscariot was one of the twelve apostles chosen by Jesus during his public ministry and is identified in the New Testament as the disciple who betrayed Christ. Jesus chose Judas and He (Jesus) loved Judas just as He loved the others. Judas 'broke bread' with Jesus, meaning Judas ate meals with Jesus. This was huge within the Jewish culture. Within Jewish cultural and religious life the act of breaking bread meant more than nourishment: it was a public sign of fellowship, hospitality, covenant identity, and worshipful thanksgiving that shaped Christian sacramental language and practice.

He is named Judas (son of Simon) and surnamed Iscariot which is often believed to denote Judas' place of origin, possibly referring to Kerieth, a town in Judea. Gospel accounts portray him as the one who arranged Jesus' arrest by agreeing with the chief priests to betray Jesus for money. The Gospel of John reports that the devil entered Judas in the context of the Last Supper. John indicates that Jesus already knew from the beginning who would betray him and that one of the twelve was a "devil" (John 6:64, 70-71). At the Last Supper, after Jesus identified the betrayer by saying he would give the morsel to him, John states that "after the morsel, Satan entered into him," whereupon Jesus told Judas, "What you do, do quickly." This passage links Judas' deliberate decision to betray Christ with the action of Satan entering him at that moment. The Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) and the Fourth Gospel of John associate Judas' act with greed. In the Gospels of John and Luke, with the instigation of Satan, Judas betrays Jesus. John also notes that Judas acted as keeper of the group's moneybag and was "embezzling" money for himself. This thought is discussed quite a bit because of his comment in the Gospel of John 12:1-8. "Why was this oil not sold for three hundred days' wages and given to the poor?" The Gospel continues saying: "He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief and held the money bag and used to steal the contributions." When you put 2 plus 2 together, it looks like Satan was "leading" Judas for a while.

Very little is told to us in the Sacred Text concerning the history of Judas Iscariot beyond the bare facts of his call to the Apostolate, his treachery, and his death. His birthplace is indicated in his name Iscariot, and his origin separates him from the other Apostles, who were all Galileans - for Kerieth is a city of Judah. It has been suggested that this fact may have had some influence on his career by causing want of sympathy with the other Apostles. We are told nothing concerning the circumstances of his call or his share in the ministry and miracles of the Apostles. And it is significant that he is never mentioned without some reference to his great betrayal.

Next week, we will look into who were the Roman guards/soldiers. Have a joy filled week!



Photo credit: ©GettyImages/gabrielabertolini



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In this Sunday's Gospel, as we hear the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we also come to know that our daily reaching out to our neighbor is our daily walk with the risen Christ; we recognize him in others. This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought the love and care of Jesus to the poor by assisting local families in providing them with food, and financial assistance with utility and rent bills, etc. Thank You!

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 pre-printed 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!



Parish Spring Potluck

Sunday May 3, 2026

Shea Hall - 4:00 - 7:00 PM
Bring a dish to share with your parish family!



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM

“
*Without the war with evil in its hour,
There will never be the day of peace.
Unless there is a Good Friday in our lives,
There will never be an Easter Sunday.
Unless there is the crown of thorns,
There will never be the halo of light.
Unless there is the scourged body,
There will never be the glorified body.
And there is the answer to the question of Easter!*

- Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

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



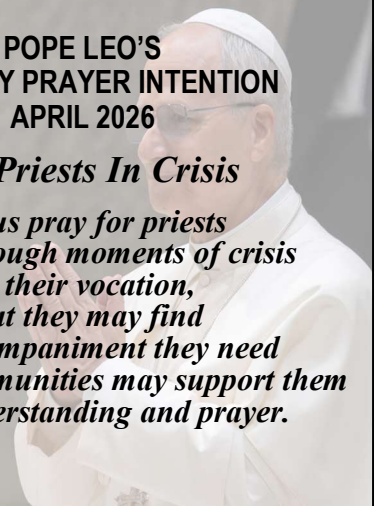
Please be generous in supporting the Catholic Home Missions Appeal on April 25th and 26th. This collection helps to

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!

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.*





RESERVE YOUR VIDALIA ONIONS !

The One Heart Colombia Mission Team is taking orders for Vidalia onions! Please reserve your bag(s) of onions by signing up on the sign-up sheet in Shea Hall. The onions will be delivered to St. Francis of Assisi Church in May.

10 LB. BAG FOR \$10

YOUR ORDER HELPS AND SUPPORTS THE  MISSION GROUP



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

“O Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, I would like to be filled with love for You; Keep me closely united with You, may my heart be near to Yours.

I want to be to You like the apostle John.

O Mary of the Rosary, keep me recollected when I say these prayers of yours; Bind me forever, with your rosary, to Jesus of the Blessed Sacrament. Blessed be Jesus, my love, blessed be the Immaculate Virgin Mary.”

*- Pope John XXIII, Journal of a Soul
1881 - 1963*

SAVE THE DATES !!!!!

The Parish WES Team (**W**elcoming, **E**vents and **S**ocial) had a very productive meeting last week and solidified several dates for upcoming planned events. Please make a note of the dates below on your calendar and make plans to attend - especially during this Jubilee year of our patron saint - St. Francis of Assisi. Details for all events will be forthcoming in future bulletins and on the information boards in Shea Hall.



CONCORD YACHT CLUB
Parish Picnic
8/2/26
2:00 - 7:00 PM



MOVIE Night
Sunday
November 1
Shea Hall - 4 PM

“Brother Sun, Sister Moon” is events in the life of St. Francis of Assisi from before his conversion experience through his audience with the pope, including his friendship with St. Clare.

November 1, 2026



Feasting with St. Francis
St. Francis of Assisi
Feast Day
Parish Potluck “Feast”
10/4/26
4-7 PM



PRC Back Lawn
Pet Blessing
10/3/26
10 AM



Parish Christmas Party
Tremont Lodge
12/6/26
5 - 8 PM



UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
5/3/26	Parish Spring Potluck Shea Hall - 4:00 - 7:00 PM	Online: N/A E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 869-448-6070
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: mikehartf1987 Phone: 423-414-4532 (Michael Hart)
8/2/26	Parish Picnic Concord Yacht Club - Knoxville 2:00 - 7:00 PM	Online: N/A E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 869-448-6070
10/3/26	Pet Blessing Outside behind the PRC 10:00 AM	Online: N/A E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 869-448-6070
10/4/26	"Feasting" Potluck with St. Francis Shea Hall 4:00 - 7:00 PM	Online: N/A E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 869-448-6070
11/1/26	Parish Movie Night with popcorn "Brother Sun, Sister Moon" A St. Francis/St. Clare Movie Shea Hall 4:00 - 6:00 PM	Online: N/A E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 869-448-6070
12/6/26	Parish Christmas Party Tremont Lodge - Townsend 5:00 - 8:00 PM	Online: N/A E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 869-448-6070



SAINTS BE PRAISED!

April 21	St. Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
April 23	St. George, Martyr
April 24	St. Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr
April 25	St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr
	St. Mark, Evangelist