



APRIL 26, 2026 4TH 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) Sunday 9:00AM The Rosary is prayed 35 minutes before each Weekend Mass
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
OCIA Dc. Jim Schmall	WELCOMING, EVENTS & All Parishioners
ART & ENVIRONMENT Michele 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 4/27 8:30 AM Annie Fain †
Tue 4/28 8:30 AM Brenda Wallace †
Wed 4/29 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 4/30 8:30 AM Barbara Carter †
Fri 5/1 8:30 AM Lois Zehnder †
Sat 5/2 4:00 PM Judas Thaddeus, Vo Van Thief †
Sun 5/3 9:00 AM Marianne Horan †

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

*Not to hurt our humble brethren
 is our first duty to them,
 but to stop there is not enough.
 We have a higher mission;
 To be of service to them
 Whenever they require.*

- St. Francis of Assisi
1181 - 1226

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	4/27	9:00 AM	Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue	4/28		
Wed	4/29		
Thu	4/30		
Fri	5/1	9:00 AM	1st Friday Adoration
Sat	5/2	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	5/3	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP
 OPEN
 after weekend Masses
 and by request/appointment
 after daily Mass



CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD WHO GIVES US LIFE

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, we may have wonderful romantic ideas of what a shepherd's life was like. In truth, it was a very demanding and difficult one. In ancient times sheep were raised for their milk and their wool. The land was dry and rocky and hilly. Sheep would fall down the hillside, and the shepherd had to rescue them. The shepherd had to make sure his sheep had food and water. It was the shepherd's job to protect his flock. The sheep knew their shepherd and the shepherd knew his sheep.

Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice." That matters, because we live in a world filled with voices, some persuasive, some anxious, some angry, some flattering, some accusing. There are voices that tell us our worth depends on achievement, appearance, productivity, or approval. There are voices that keep us stuck in shame: "You'll never change." There are voices that stir fear: "You're on your own."

The Shepherd's voice is clear and personal. He calls you by name. He tells you the truth and corrects you without humiliation. He calls you forward - into prayer, forgiveness, reconciliation, generosity, and courage. Any voice that drives you into despair, isolation, or hatred is not the Good Shepherd.

Then Jesus goes even further: the Good Shepherd "lays down his life for the sheep." This is not a sentimental picture for a stained-glass window. It is the Cross. It is Jesus stepping between us and what destroys us - sin, despair, division, death. The Shepherd's love is not soft; it is sacrificial.

And every time we come to the altar, we meet that same Shepherd. He feeds the flock with his own life. He gathers what is scattered. He binds up what is wounded. He strengthens what is weak. That's why Jesus can promise, "I give them eternal life." The Shepherd does not merely point to life; he *gives* it.

Today is also World Day of Prayer for Vocations. So today we should pray boldly: "Bless Your church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers and sisters." Next week the Diocese of Knoxville will take part in the Called by Name program. This is an opportunity for you to prayerfully consider the young people and adults in your parish community who show qualities of faith, generosity, leadership, and love for the church, signs that God may be calling them to serve in ordained or consecrated life.

Next week at all the Masses we will have cards in the pews for you to share the name and contact information of a person you feel may be a potential candidate. Fill out the cards and place them in the collection basket. These names will be shared with the Vocation Office, and Bishop Beckman will personally reach out to each person and offer his encouragement, prayer, and offer tools of discernment.

Today, let's ask for the grace to recognize the Shepherd's voice, to trust his love proved on the Cross, and to follow where he leads - even when the path is narrow. And let's ask him to raise up shepherds after his own heart for the Church, and to make each of us a sign of his care to someone who needs it.



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



*We create so much unnecessary pain and suffering for ourselves
by insisting things must be done a certain way.
Surrender liberates us from the tyranny of self-will.*



- Vic Clesceri - *The Way of Surrender*

CATECHISM

CORNER



BY: Julie Dew

THE LIFE OF A ROMAN SOLDIER

Welcome to the Fourth Sunday of Easter! Let's dive right into this Corner! We will be "talking" about who were the Roman soldiers and what their life was like!

Roman soldiers, who were known for their discipline and organization, were the foundation of the Roman military, playing a crucial role in the expansion and defense of the Roman Empire.

The Roman army was instrumental in the expansion of the Roman Empire, allowing Rome to conquer vast territories and maintain control over them. The Roman army was the backbone of the empire's power, and the Romans managed to conquer many tribes, clans, confederations, and empires because of their military superiority. It was also the source of the empire's economic and political strength, ensuring domestic peace so that trade could flourish. However, this peace was often managed by boundaries with conquest. The Emperor used the Roman army to protect the city and to control the people it had conquered.

The Roman army was also a tool of cultural assimilation. Some soldiers were away from their families for long periods of time, loosening their clan loyalties and replacing them with loyalty to Rome. The Roman army was a means by which a barbarian could become a citizen, but the process was not fast. Only when a soldier had served in the Roman army for 25 years, could he become a citizen of Rome. – *historyonthenet.com*

The Roman army served as a formidable military force throughout the history of ancient Rome, spanning from the Roman Kingdom (753–509 BC) through the Roman Republic (509–27 BC) and into the Roman Empire (27 BC – AD 476/1453). The army was characterized by its highly structured organization, which included various ranks and units, allowing for effective command and control on the battlefield.

STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION:

LEGIONS: The primary unit of the Roman army was the legion, typically consisting of 4,200 to 6,000 soldiers. Each legion was further divided into cohorts and centuries, allowing for flexibility and tactical maneuverability.

RANKS: Key ranks included the Legatus (legion commander), Centurions (commanders of centuries), and Tribunes (staff officers). The centurions were crucial for maintaining discipline and leading troops in battle.

TYPES OF SOLDIERS:

LEGIONARIES: These were Roman citizens who served in the legions. They were well-trained, equipped with armor, and received a salary for their service. Legionaries were typically required to serve for a minimum of 25 years.

AUXILIARIES: These soldiers were non-citizens recruited from the provinces. They often performed specialized roles and were paid less than legionaries. Auxiliaries could earn Roman citizenship after completing their service.

The life in the Roman army was demanding. Soldiers were expected to endure long marches, often covering up to 30 miles a day, and faced strict discipline. Training was rigorous, and soldiers were frequently involved in campaigns across the empire, from Britain to the Middle East. Its legacy includes innovations in military tactics, engineering, and organization that influenced future military forces throughout history. – *Wikipedia*

The severe brutality of Roman soldiers was a result of a combination of factors, including the competitive culture, the need for military success, and the societal desensitization to violence. The Roman soldiers' willingness to commit extreme violence against unarmed civilians during conquests and sieges was often state-sanctioned and publicized, reinforcing their identity and status. The competitive culture blurred the lines between valor and brutality, and the mindset of soldiers was shaped by a desire for military success, which was often celebrated through brutal acts. – *Brynmawr.edu*

Next week, we will learn who the Chief Priests were! Have a most wonderful week!



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today, we celebrate "Good Shepherd Sunday" where we reflect on Jesus' care and love of us and hear his words, "I came so that they may have life and have it more abundantly." By your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you will reveal the love of the "Good Shepherd" to your suffering brothers and sisters.

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 MAY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" INSTANT COFFEE AND CREAMER



Socks & Underwear For Blount County Foster Children



Place items in the basket in Shea Hall

Items Needed:

Socks
&
Underwear

Sponsored By:
St. Vincent de Paul Society

St. Francis of Assisi Church
Townsend, TN

Girls - Size 2T - to Size 12

Boys - Size 2T - to Size 10



DUE BY
JUNE 7, 2026



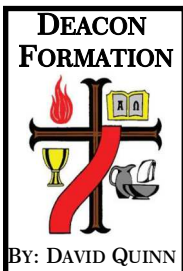
SVdP DONATION GUIDELINES

- 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.

Parish **Spring** Potluck

Sunday May 3, 2026

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



BECOMING A DEACON – EXTERNAL CHALLENGES

Our Deacon Formation class has had some other challenges aside from trying to discern a call from God and trying to learn Scripture and Spirituality. Several of my fellow participants would be hit with Covid or other illnesses that would prevent them from physically attending a formation weekend. Members sometimes got iced in because of weather. The desire to participate was still there, so we would take advantage of technology and allow members to attend virtually, through Zoom or Teams.

The beginning of the second year of Formation presented a unique physical challenge for me as I had to have neck fusion surgery at the end of August 2023. Unable to lift objects heavier than a gallon of milk, I had to participate remotely for September and October.

In my business career, I am accustomed to leading and participating in events through virtual tools; however, there is a missing element when you cannot attend Formation in person. That bond of brotherhood is not as great, so I was glad when I was able to get back to attending in person in November 2023.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION - 5/1/26



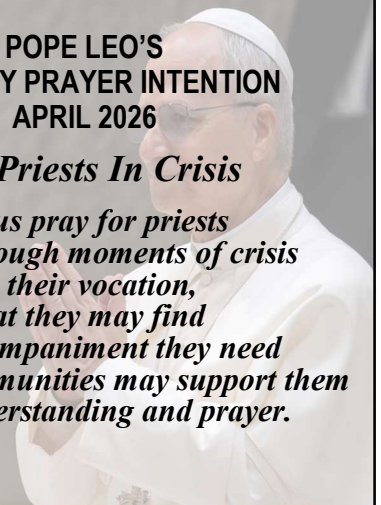
Mass: 8:30 AM
Adoration: 9:00 - Noon
Healing Service: 9:00 AM
(in Shea Hall)
Benediction: Noon

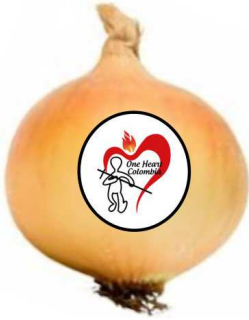
If you are interested in committing to a Holy Hour, please contact Jackie Wagner at 330-807-8663.

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

*“The Eucharist bathes the tormented soul in light and love.
Then the soul appreciates these words,
‘Come all you who are sick, I will restore your health.’”*

- St. Bernadette
1844 - 1879

SAVE THE DATES !!!!!

The Parish WES Team (Welcoming, Events and Social) has been very busy scheduling and solidifying 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

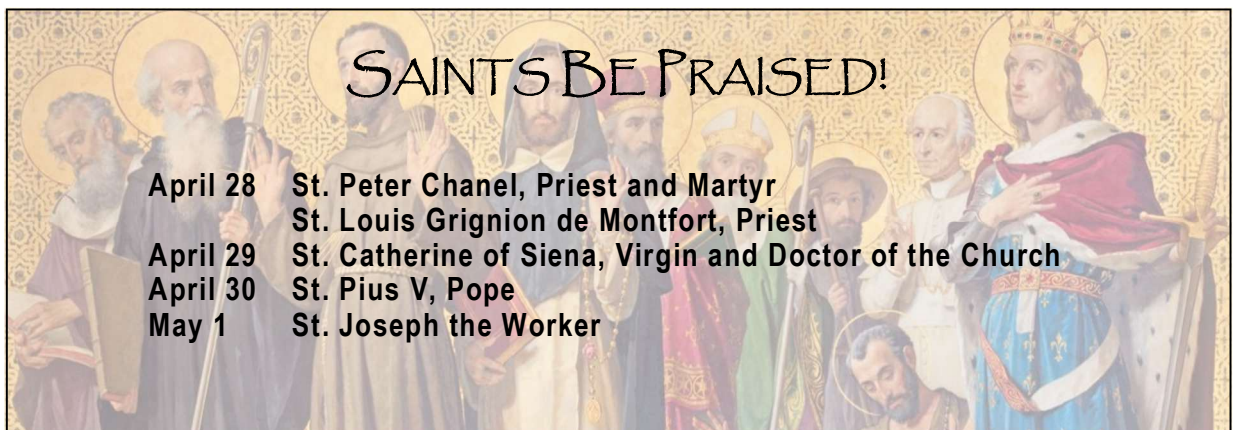


Parish Christmas Party
Tremont Lodge
12/6/26
5 - 8 PM



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
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 28 St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr
 St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest
April 29 St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
April 30 St. Pius V, Pope
May 1 St. Joseph the Worker