



# APRIL 5, 2026 EASTER SUNDAY

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

<b>PASTOR</b> .....Fr. Antonio Giraldo	<b>GARDENS &amp; GROUNDS</b> ..... Ilene Rainwater
<b>DEACON</b> .....Dc. Jim Schmall	<b>FACILITIES</b> ..... David Girard
<b>OFFICE MANAGERS</b> .....Katrina Allocco & Lesa Schmall	<b>SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE</b> ..... JoAnne Romer-Aylward
<b>BOOKKEEPER</b> ..... Kathleen Halligan	<b>PASTORAL CARE</b> ..... Suzie Fay
<b>LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTOR</b> .....JoAnne Romer-Aylward	<b>ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP</b> ..... Camilla Sorrell
<b>DIR. OF RELIGIOUS ED.</b> .....Julie Dew	<b>COLUMBARIUM</b> ..... Bob Eberhardt
<b>OCIA</b> .....Dc. Jim Schmall	<b>WELCOMING, EVENTS &amp;</b> ..... All Parishioners
<b>ART &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b> .....Michele Girard & Norene O'Donnell	<b>SOCIALS TEAM (WEST)</b>
	<b>PARISH ASSOCIATIONS:</b>
	<b>ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:</b> Debbie Eberhardt
	<b>COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN:</b> 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](mailto: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 4/6** 8:30 AM Udo Van Zabuesnig +  
**Tue 4/7** 8:30 AM Marianne Horan +  
**Wed 4/8** **NO MORNING MASS**  
**Thu 4/9** 8:30 AM Judas Thaddeus, Vo Van Thief +  
**Fri 4/10** 8:30 AM Edith Webb +  
**Sat 4/11** 4:00 PM Raymond Nieman + Bernard Eberhardt +  
 Emmett Eberhardt  
**Sun 4/12** 9:00 AM Mark Gruber + Henry Gruber +

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 Fr. Antonio. 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



*Blessed are those  
 who endure in peace  
 for by You, Most High,  
 shall they be crowned.*



*- 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

<b>Mon</b>	<b>4/6</b>	9:00 AM	Church and Hall Cleaning
<b>Tue</b>	<b>4/7</b>	6:00 PM	OCIA - Shea Hall
<b>Wed</b>	<b>4/8</b>		
<b>Thu</b>	<b>4/9</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>4/10</b>		
<b>Sat</b>	<b>4/11</b>	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>4/12</b>	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass



***“This is the day the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad!”***

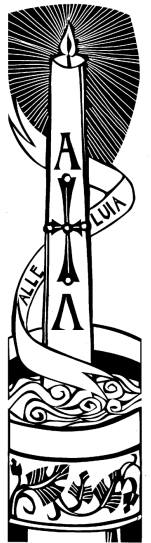
After the Lenten purification, the prayers and reflections of Holy Week, and triumphal joy of the Easter Vigil, the whole Church rests gladly because our Lord Jesus, conqueror of death, has bestowed the Church with joy and hope.

Easter celebrates the central conviction that death and sin do not have the final word! Life prevails, even in the midst of suffering and death. In and through our faith in Christ, we share in the banquet of life. Christ is risen alleluia! Let us be glad and rejoice with him. Yes, let us rejoice and spread throughout the world the hope and joy of Easter because the Lord has risen.

If Christ didn't rise, our faith and hope would have been senseless. But we know death is not the last word of this life. It is the life and victory in the risen Lord. The community, the Church, is the privileged place to encounter the risen Lord. It is through sharing, solidarity, and fraternal love, the most clear manifestation that truly we have risen with him.

The Easter season that begins today and culminates with the Feast of Pentecost has this goal: to help us in the process to resurrect to a new life. May our personal transformation, during these long days, awaken and promote life in us. So, that together we can contribute to the construction and growth of the kingdom of God in our community.

This is the task that Holy Week leaves to us all. May our Easter Season be filled with the hope that comes even in the midst of pain and death.



## CATECHISM

CORNER



BY: Julie Dew

## HAPPY EASTER!

Jesus Christ is Risen!! Here we are at the end of our Lenten journey! How did you do? My Lenten journey was.... let's just say it was a journey..... Me: one step forward and two steps backwards. I guess this shows that I'm still a work in progress.

On this beautiful day of the Resurrection, I wish to welcome our newest members of the Catholic Church: Logan Dellinger, Brooke Pouliotte, Ocean Teaster, and Thomas Waggoner. Welcome dear brothers and sister to the Table!

Here's a little information about our Feast today. Easter is the principal feast of the ecclesiastical (Church) year. Please refer to CCC 1169 for more information! It's the Easter Season! So, when did Lent actually end? It ended with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, because the Mass of the Lord's Supper ushers in the Holy Triduum, which is a liturgical season in its own right and the shortest of the liturgical year. The Easter Season is 50 days long, ending on the feast of Pentecost (the birthday of the Church). What's interesting is how Christians created the season of Easter based on the number of days that led up to the Jewish feast of Pentecost. This is because the apostles received the gift of the Holy Spirit on that Jewish feast, as narrated in the Acts of the Apostles, "When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place" (Acts 2:1).

Pentecost is identified in the Bible as the conclusion of the Jewish harvest festival. The book of Leviticus explains how the celebration of this feast is to be counted, "And you shall count from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven full weeks shall they be, counting fifty days to the morrow after the seventh sabbath; then you shall present a cereal offering of new grain to the Lord" (Leviticus 23:15-16). Do you know what the Jews celebrated on Pentecost? Simply: The Jewish Pentecost comes from a Jewish harvest festival called Shavuot.

We celebrate something more spiritual. Luke describes the coming of the Holy Spirit fifty days after Easter - hence Pentecost, a word which derives from the Greek word meaning fifty. As a result, the feast of Pentecost for Christians is held 50 days after Easter Sunday and marks the conclusion of the Easter season with the coming of the Holy Spirit. I'll write more about Pentecost when we celebrate this Feast!

The Liturgical color for the season of Easter is white - meaning light, innocence, purity, joy, triumph, and glory. Just for your information: you will also see the Liturgical color of white during these special seasons or feasts in the Church: Season of Christmas, Feasts of the Lord, other than of His passion, Feasts of Mary, the angels, and saints who were not martyrs, All Saints (November 1st), Feasts of the Apostles, Nuptial Masses, and Masses for the dead (Requiem Masses) when the deceased is a baptized child who died before the age of reason.

During the coming weeks in the "Corner," I thought I would concentrate on the different people, places and little tidbits about the Season of Easter! "Stay prayed up!" Until next week.....!

## INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST



*“ Recognize in this bread what hung on the cross,  
and in this chalice what flowed from His side. ”*

- St. Augustine  
354 - 430



## ***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

### ***In Honor of***

Fr. Antonio Giraldo  
Nora Davis



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today as we celebrate the feast of Easter, we find the challenge of also seeing and believing the resurrection that comes through our own lives of self-sacrifice. It is then that we are truly Easter people! As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, know that you are a sign of God's love to those who are suffering, and you give them Easter hope and joy.

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 MARCH "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 MISSION 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!



## Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM

“ *What the spiritual journey is all about is uniting our will with God’s will, wanting what He wants, loving what He loves, living a life that in all its aspects honors Him and gives Him glory.* ”

- Ralph Martin

## 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.*



## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY SPECIAL HOLY HOUR OF ADORATION

# Sunday, April 12, 2026 - 3 PM

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

## 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
4/12/2026	Divine Mercy Sunday Holy Hour of Adoration 3:00 PM in the Church	Online: StFrancisTownsend.org Hall: Flyer on Liturgy Bulletin Board Phone: 865-448-6070
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)
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)

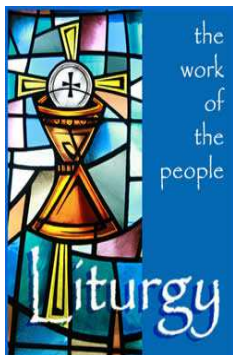
## E-MAIL AND TEXT SCAM ALERT



We have received word from the Diocese that parishioners have been receiving E-Mails and Texts purportedly sent by Priests, Deacons, or other Clergy asking for urgent financial assistance. Additionally, within our OWN parish, parishioners have reported receiving emails and texts from Fr. Antonio with a similar message. If you have received correspondence like this, please DO NOT respond to it and report it to the Church or Diocesan office. Our diocesan

office has asked that we share that **no priest or deacon will ever contact you by email or text asking for your assistance.**

To report a suspicious email or text to the Diocesan office please contact Mara Lentz at [mlentz@dioknox.org](mailto:mlentz@dioknox.org) or 865-862-5734. To report a suspicious email or text to the Parish Office please call 865-448-6070 or send an email to [StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com](mailto:StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com).



## 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 and next 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