



# MAY 10, 2026 6TH 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

<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 5/11** 8:30 AM Clarence Keeven †  
**Tue 5/12** 8:30 AM Jack Troupe †  
**Wed 5/13** **NO MORNING MASS**  
**Thu 5/14** 8:30 AM Cayden Farmer  
**Fri 5/15** 8:30 AM German & Pamela Giraldo & Maria & Rita  
**Sat 5/16** 4:00 PM Dr. Curtis Graf, Sr. †  
**Sun 5/17** 9:00 AM Udo Van Zabuesnig †

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, Beryl Quinton, Obed Sexton, the Gruber Family, Betty Gonzalez, Carmen Milton, Carolyn & Bruce Haverkos, Marlene Doerrer, Michael Grier Jr.

**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

“ Where there is charity and wisdom  
 there is neither fear nor ignorance.  
 Where there is patience and humility  
 there is neither anger nor worry.  
 - 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>5/11</b>	9:00 AM	Church and Hall Cleaning
<b>Tue</b>	<b>5/12</b>		
<b>Wed</b>	<b>5/13</b>		
<b>Thu</b>	<b>5/14</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>5/15</b>		
<b>Sat</b>	<b>5/16</b>	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>5/17</b>	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass

## LIVING AS A FOLLOWER OF JESUS



The Father has given us a Paraclete, a Comforter, an Advocate, the guiding Spirit of truth and love to be with us forever: to dwell with us, remain with us, abide in our hearts and be with us always!

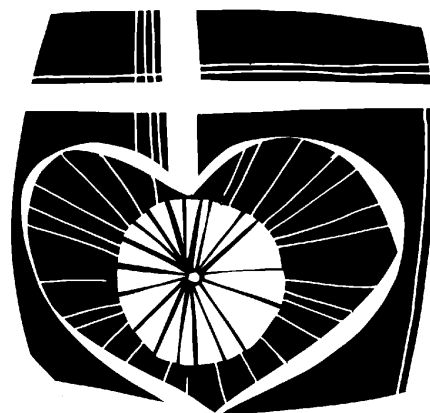
In today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles, those baptized by Philip in Samaria, did not experience the coming of the Spirit until Peter and John came and imposed hands on them, praying that they might receive the Holy Spirit. And yet the Spirit had already been given to them, as to everyone, at Baptism, and was in fact already dwelling in their hearts.

Baptism gives us divine life; a share in the infinite, eternal life of God. Just as we must grow and develop as persons in order to experience being fully alive as human beings, so we have to grow in the life of grace in order to experience the Holy Spirit within us. As we grow in grace, we reflect more deeply as disciples on the words of Jesus. As we embody them more creatively in our lives, we bear witness to Gospel values as prophets. As we accept our baptismal priesthood and offer ourselves with Christ in the Eucharist and ourselves with him for the life of the world, we learn to let go of our inhibitions and live out our faith and love in life-giving ways. As we show our concern for the world and take responsibility for renewing society as stewards of the kinship of Christ, we act as a "royal priesthood." As we enter more and more fully into the commitment and consecration of our Baptism, we experience more and more the gift of the Holy Spirit abiding with us, speaking through us, acting with us, dwelling within us, given to us to be with us always.

We experience the Spirit not as someone "out there," but as the abiding Presence, within us, through whom we relate to the Father as Father and to the Son as Son. Through the gift of the Spirit we know God as only the Son can know the Father. Knowing the Father as Father and the Son as Son, we know the Spirit as Spirit: Indwelling gift as abiding within us, acting within us, remaining within us to be with us always!

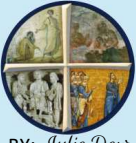
Anticipating his Ascension, Jesus promised his disciples an Advocate, one who hears and answers our cries for help, who strengthens us to keep his commandments, even when the world cannot comprehend our reason for doing so. Like the disciples who were with Jesus before his Ascension, we are called to apply all that Jesus showed and taught in our daily lives.

We may feel timid about living as a follower of Jesus; we might be tempted to "go with the flow" rather than standing up for what we know is right; we might be battered by the storms of life. Still, we have hope in the risen Lord, the strength of the Holy Spirit, and the assurance that God is with us, especially when the circumstances of life and living as people of faith is challenging. It may be in those most challenging moments in life, when we hold on to with hope in the Lord, that we have an opportunity to witness to God's enduring love, mercy, and strength. And through us, our family members, friends, and coworkers may be drawn to Christ.



## CATECHISM

CORNER



BY: Julie Dew

## PILATE AND HEROD

Good and happy weekend St. Francis and welcome to this week's Corner where we will be discussing the persons of Pilate and Herod.

Pontius Pilate was the Roman procurator (prefect/governor) of Judaea who governed from about 26 AD to 36 AD. As procurator he exercised both fiscal and judicial authority on behalf of the emperor and commanded the garrison (which were a fortified military post or a group of soldiers) stationed at Caesarea and, when necessary, in Jerusalem. As procurator, he resided at the praetorium (the Roman governor's headquarters). After the removal of the eldest son of Herod, Archelaus (who had succeeded his father as ethnarch – which is a ruler of a nation or people), Judea was placed under the rule of a Roman procurator, thus we have Pilate present during the time of Jesus's earthly mission. Pilate had greater authority than most procurators under the empire, for in addition to the ordinary duty of financial administration, he had supreme power judicially. Being the Roman procurator of Judaea, he presided over the legal proceedings against Jesus of Nazareth and ordered his crucifixion.

"The New Testament accounts present Pilate as reluctant to condemn Jesus: the Gospels portray him as seeking to avoid responsibility, offering to release Jesus, and authorizing the inscription "Iesus Nazarenus, Rex Iudaeorum" (INRI) on the cross." *catholic.com*

By naming Pontius Pilate, the Creed affirms the concrete reality of the Passion and maintains the Church's claim that salvation is accomplished in history through the true death and resurrection of Jesus.

Later Christian tradition and apocryphal writings amplified details about Pilate and his wife (commonly named Claudia Procula), at times suggesting repentance or conversion; such traditions are not established by the earliest historical records and are treated cautiously by historians. The historical fate of Pilate after A.D. 36 is uncertain, with ancient reports of disgrace or suicide considered legendary." *catholic.com* There are many other legends about Pilate in folklore, but none of them have the slightest authority.

Herod Antipas, 21 BC – 39 AD, often referred to simply as "Herod" in certain passages of the New Testament, as a ruler over Galilee and Perea during the earthly ministry of John the Baptist and Jesus. Herod was the son of Herod the Great, the king of Judea. Upon his father's death, the Roman emperor Augustus divided Herod the Great's kingdom among his sons, and Herod became tetrarch (A tetrarch during Jesus' time on earth was a ruler who governed one-fourth of a province or territory, often under the authority of a higher king or emperor. Tetrarchs held limited power compared to kings but were influential in their respective regions, as seen in the New Testament passages that mention their political roles and interactions with Jesus and John the Baptist.) He ruled from about 4 BC to 39 AD.

One of the most significant and dramatic episodes in Herod's life involved John the Baptist. The Gospels describe how John publicly condemned Herod for marrying Herodias, the wife of his half-brother Philip. This criticism led to John's imprisonment. Even though Herod feared John and protected him, knowing he was a "righteous and holy man," he ultimately yielded to the manipulations of Herodias and her daughter, resulting in John's beheading.

Herod also appears in the accounts of Jesus' final days. Luke's Gospel describes how Pilate sent Jesus to Herod upon learning that He was from Galilee, which fell under Herod's jurisdiction. Although Herod had heard of Jesus' miracles and was curious to see Him perform a sign, Jesus "gave him no answer." Herod and his soldiers mocked Jesus and sent Him back to Pilate, ultimately playing a part in the chain of events that led to Christ's crucifixion.

There is SO much more that could be said about these two, but I think I've already run over! Next week we will look at a few more "players" such as Barabbas and the two criminals that were crucified with Jesus! Until then, St. Francis, have a wonderful and joyous week!

## ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI JUBILEE YEAR 2026

### East Tennessee Catholic Newspaper, April 26, 2026:

St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Fairfield Glade and St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Townsend have been designated as official pilgrimage sites for the Franciscan Jubilee, commemorating the 800th anniversary of the Transitus, the passing into eternal life of St. Francis of Assisi in 1226.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Fairfield Glade will host a special event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. CDT on Saturday, May 16. Father David Mary Engo, FFM, will speak on the life of “The Little Poor Man” and how his 800-year-old legacy remains vital for modern Catholics. A vigil Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. Registration is required for the May 16 event; register or learn more at [saintfrancisfairfield.org/franciscan-jubilee-year](http://saintfrancisfairfield.org/franciscan-jubilee-year).

The Jubilee Year is intended to be a season of intense spiritual renewal for the entire Church, focusing on three core pillars of peace:

Peace with God  
Peace among humanity, and  
Peace with creation.

The faithful are encouraged to adopt the Franciscan charisms of joy, poverty, and ecological stewardship.

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed an extraordinary Franciscan Jubilee Year, running from Jan. 10, 2026, to Jan. 10, 2027. The Holy Father has offered a plenary indulgence to the faithful. To obtain this indulgence during the Jubilee, pilgrims must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Make a pilgrimage to a designated site, such as St. Francis of Assisi churches in Fairfield Glade and Townsend;
2. Spend time in prayer during their visit; and
3. Make an act of conversion as the indulgence is tied to a spirit of conversion and the pursuit of holiness.

Under standard Church decree, a plenary indulgence also typically requires the individual to be in a state of grace, have a complete detachment from sin, and fulfill the three usual conditions:

Sacramental confession,  
Eucharistic Communion, and  
Prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father.

**(end of ETC newspaper article)**

In addition to the ETC newspaper article above, our very own St. Francis of Assisi church is promoting the Year of Jubilee in several ways:

1. Weekly quotes from St. Francis of Assisi appear in the bulletin
2. Liturgy bulletin board in Shea Hall has an extensive article on St. Francis and celebrating the Jubilee Year
3. Our WES Team has identified a couple of activities in October celebrating the Jubilee Year: Pet Blessing and Parish Potluck Feast on St. Francis feast day weekend. Our movie night in November is also in honor of St. Francis of Assisi and his Jubilee Year.
4. In late Summer/early Fall Adult Continuing Education will be offering an educational series sponsored by EWTN about the life and travels of St. Francis of Assisi.



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today, Jesus says to us: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments... Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father and I will love him and reveal myself to him." When we give to the poor, God indeed pours his love, peace and joy into our hearts, into our lives and through us into the hearts of those who are poor.

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 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

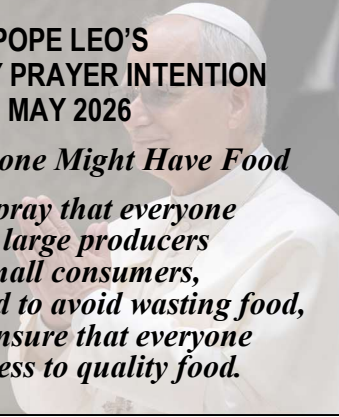
- The preprinted SVdP church contribution envelope, (which is marked for the beginning of the month) can be placed in the collection basket **ANY** time of the month. If you are not using pre-printed envelopes and want to place you donation in a weekend Mass collection basket, please put your donation 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.

**865-312-0141**

POPE LEO'S  
MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION  
MAY 2026

*That Everyone Might Have Food*

*Let us pray that everyone  
from large producers  
to small consumers,  
be committed to avoid wasting food,  
and to ensure that everyone  
has access to quality food.*



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO  
PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS  
IN THE EUCHARIST

*“The Holy Eucharist  
is the perfect expression  
of the Love of Jesus Christ  
for Man.”*

- St. Maria Goretti  
1890 - 1902



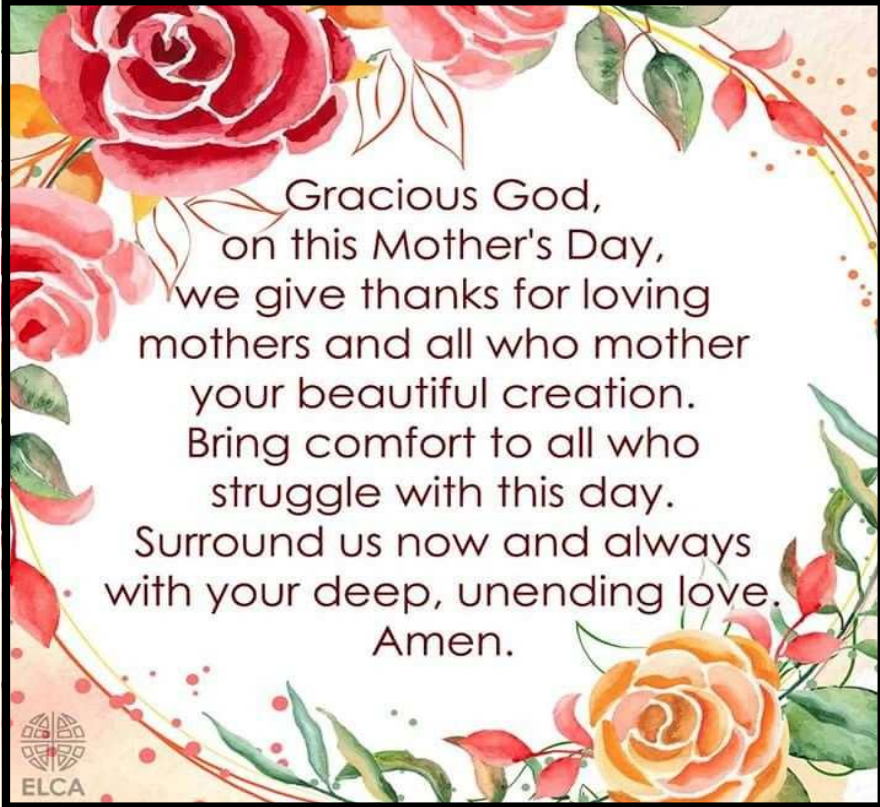
*Daily* CATHOLIC WISDOM



*The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God  
is the heart of a Mother.*



- St. Therese of Lisieux





# UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
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!**

<b>May 12</b>	<b>Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs</b>
	<b>St. Pancras, Martyr</b>
<b>May 13</b>	<b>Our Lady of Fatima</b>
<b>May 14</b>	<b>St. Matthias, Apostle</b>
<b>May 15</b>	<b>St. Isidore</b>



*Mother's Day Blessings!*