



MAY 17, 2026 THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

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 5/18 8:30 AM German & Pamela Giraldo & Maria & Rita
Tue 5/19 8:30 AM Gerry Eberhardt
Wed 5/20 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 5/21 8:30 AM German & Pamela Giraldo & Maria & Rita
Fri 5/22 8:30 AM German & Pamela Giraldo & Maria & Rita
Sat 5/23 4:00 PM Dr. John G. Yager †
Sun 5/24 9:00 AM German & Pamela Giraldo & Maria & Rita

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, 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

“ Praise and bless my Lord,
And give Him thanks
And serve Him with great humility. ”

- 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	5/18	9:00 AM	Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue	5/19		
Wed	5/20	5:00 PM	SVdP - PRC
Thu	5/21		
Fri	5/22		
Sat	5/23	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	5/24	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass

THE GREAT COMMISSION



The Ascension celebrates Jesus' glorification far above of every being that could be named in this age and in the one to come, as Paul says in today's second reading. As we profess each week, Jesus ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. But this is not the end. He tells his disciples in today's gospel, "I will be with you always, until the end of time" He showed he was with them by how the Church grew through the teaching of the apostles and through the courage he gave them – even giving them courage to face martyrdom for the faith.

Jesus knew that it wasn't going to be easy for them, so he gave them –and all of us – something to do. It was what would become known as the "Great Commission," the call to ministry for the men and women who were about to lead a community and eventually build a church.

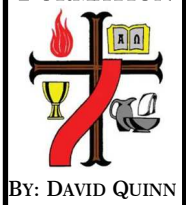
The church began in the midst of the messiness of human experience, just as it continues to be called to serve the messiness of humanity today. When we set those first disciples apart from us, above us, we are then able to shirk from the responsibility of the commission Jesus offered not only them but us as well. When his disciples stood on the mountain full of fear and anxiety and doubt and rage, he told them to get out of their heads, to go and find others, to build a beloved community, not only in the next town but in all nations.

And now, as we sit in this sanctuary, as we stand in our kitchens and living rooms, full of fear and anxiety and doubt and rage, he's telling us to do the same. Go out and find others who are afraid, anxious, skeptical, and angry. It won't take you long to find them. Find them, and create with them a community rooted in love.

Our journey, which began in Lent, proceeded through the days of Holy Week, and has lasted through this season of Easter, continues. Just as that journey of faith didn't end in death, it didn't end at the empty tomb or in a locked room. It didn't end with Jesus being lifted up, nor has it ended in the centuries of longing that have followed, as his disciples through the ages have awaited his return. Our journey continues in the great commission, our call to ministry, our call to love. And soon our journey will continue as the winds of the Spirit send us forth at Pentecost.



DEACON FORMATION



BECOMING A DEACON – JOHN AND REVELATION

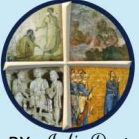
Our second year of Formation started with the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation. The Gospel of John has great revelation within it. It starts with linking Jesus to creation in Genesis. Water plays an important role in the Gospel of John (e.g., water into wine, Jacob's well with the Samaritan woman, etc.). This Gospel also emphasizes the seven times Jesus talked about "I am" in how He should be viewed (i.e., the bread of life, the Good Shepherd, etc.). John 17 is a beautiful prayer from Jesus to God about sending the Apostles forth into the world. This Gospel is the only one that does not present the Last Supper, the institution of

the Eucharist.

For the Book of Revelation, the first point of emphasis is that there is no "s" at the end of Revelation. The book is considered to be a singular revelation made to the Apostle John that is broken down into multiple chapters and events. People point to this book as it seems to address the end of times and the New Jerusalem. However, throughout Revelation, you find the description of the Mass.

CATECHISM

ORNER



BY: Julie Dew

Happy Seventh Sunday of Easter St. Francis! I've wondered about this next question, have you? Why did Pilate release Barrabas instead of Jesus? Pilate offered to release one of the criminals during the Passover festival because it was his custom to release one prisoner of the crowd's choice. This practice was a gesture of goodwill towards the Jews he governed, as it helped to manage the crowd's unrest and appease both Roman justice and Jewish leadership. The crowd's choice of Barabbas, a notorious criminal, was influenced by the crowd's desire for a leader. Think about this where one person in the crowd yells Barrabas' name so loud and the people around that person join in and before you know it most of the crowd is calling for the release of Barrabas. Also, think about when the crowd yelled to crucify Jesus. Hmmm, who was the instigator?

Barabbas was a criminal, guilty as all get out. The name Barabbas means son of the father. Did you know that? Do you see it? The beautiful Son of God, Jesus, pure, holy, kind, merciful, the Son of the Father and then we have Barabbas – the son of the father. Now, I'm going to get a little personal here.... I am Barabbas, you are too. Yup: "We are all Barabbas." It was love that brought Jesus to the cross and it was my sins that kept Him nailed to the cross. Redemption is not magic. Redemption isn't abstract. Redemption is God taking your place, dying for your sins so that you can be with Him forever in paradise AND avoid absolute suffering for eternity. Thank you Jesus!

Next let's address the two criminals that were crucified along with Jesus. Even though they are mentioned in all four Gospels, their names are not given. Tradition, however, identifies the penitent thief as St. Dismas and the other is traditionally called Gestas." - *catholic.com* That's all I have about the two criminal, but if you want to know more about the penitent thief, ask Dan Meyerkord! He has a GREAT story to tell!

So, let's discuss the Women of Jerusalem from the Eighth Station of the Cross. I know that it was a practice to hire mourners, often women to lament and wail at funerals, amplifying the expressions of grief. But when we meditate on this Station of the Cross, it's like Jesus knew them, and they knew Him. To fully understand, we must situate ourselves in the context of the Gospel narrative. Jesus, after being scourged, crowned with thorns, and condemned to die carries His cross to Golgotha. Amid this exhausting, both physically and emotionally, journey a group of women from Jerusalem weeping and lamenting His pain. Nowhere does it say that they were "paid mourners." No, these women are moved with compassion and represent the human response to unjust suffering. Their tears are a recognition of Jesus's innocence and an expression of solidarity in His pain. Jesus's response is interesting, if not surprising. He does not reject the women's compassion but invites them to look beyond His personal suffering. Their weeping, though noble must "transform" into weeping for fallen humanity the sin that causes so much pain and destruction. Jesus warns them about the consequences for sin and the need for conversion. As Jesus was instructing those women, He continues to teach us by this Station to that our weeping must go beyond mere emotion, it must lead us to action and conversion. There you have it! A reminder of the disciplines of Lent!

I'm sure you've heard or maybe even made a Pilgrimage to Jerusalem and walked the Via Dolorosa. The Via Dolorosa at Jerusalem (though not called by that name before the sixteenth century) was reverently marked out from the earliest times and has been the goal of sincere pilgrims ever since the days of Constantine. Tradition asserts that the Blessed Virgin used to visit daily the scenes of Christ's Passion and St. Jerome speaks of the crowds of pilgrims from all countries who used to visit the holy places in his day. There is, however, no direct evidence as to the existence of any set form of the devotion at that early date.

The erection of the Stations in churches did not become at all common until towards the end of the seventeenth century, and the popularity of the practice seems to have been chiefly due to indulgences that were attached. The custom originated with the Franciscans, but its special connection with that order has now disappeared. Good information! Enjoy the coming week, St. Francis, with the joy in your heart that can only come from our Savior Jesus!

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.

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



Today as we celebrate the feast of the Ascension, we are reminded that Christ's saving work on earth continues through his disciples...and now through us. Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can bring peace to those who are 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 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



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

“Jesus is sent by the Father for the salvation of the world. At the very end of the celebration of the Eucharist, we who have received the Body and Blood of Christ and have been incorporated more profoundly into his Mystical Body are likewise sent out to proclaim the Good News for the salvation of the world: “Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.”

- *The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church (USCCB 2021) P. 56*

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.*



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



*All Paul's teaching
comes down to this:*

*Our own works
can never justify us,
but works that grow
out of faith in Christ
are part of
our justification.*



- *Dr. Ken Howell*

FROM THE HEART OF CHRIST:



RENEWING OUR NATION,
OUR PRIESTS,
AND OUR HOMES.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will consecrate the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 11, 2026. This act coincides with the 250th anniversary (semiquincentennial) of the Declaration of Independence, aiming to entrust the nation to God's mercy and moral guidance. Similarly, there will be a special Mass, focused on **consecrating the Diocese of Knoxville to the Sacred Heart of Jesus at noon on Friday, June 12, at the Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.**

You are invited to be a part of this movement. There are several ways you and your family can participate in this moment of prayer for unity, peace, healing, and renewal for our nation, such as:

- Pray the Sacred Heart Novena June 3-11, leading up to the national consecration
- Consecrate yourself or your family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Commit to be part of national Works of Mercy and Holy Hour campaigns
- Attend Mass on the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Friday, June 12
- Enthroned the Sacred Heart in your home, parish, school, or workplace



DIOKNOX.ORG



UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
6/6/26	Daniel Cooper Ordination to the Priesthood Cathedral 10:30 AM	Online: dioknox.org/vocations E-Mail: mschuster@dioknox.org Phone: 869-584-3307
6/12/26	Consecration of the Diocese of Knoxville to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Mass at 12:00 Noon	Online: dioknox.org/events E-Mail: N/A Phone: 869-584-3307
8/2/26	Parish Picnic Concord Yacht Club - Knoxville 2:00 - 7:00 PM	Online: N/A E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070
10/3/26	Pet Blessing Outside behind the PRC 10:00 AM	Online: N/A E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070
10/4/26	"Feasting" Potluck with St. Francis Shea Hall 4:00 - 7:00 PM	Online: N/A E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070
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: 865-448-6070
12/6/26	Parish Christmas Party Tremont Lodge - Townsend 5:00 - 8:00 PM	Online: N/A E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070

