



**MAY 24, 2026
PENTECOST 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) 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 DEACONDc. Jim Schmall OFFICE MANAGERSKatrina Allocco & Lesa Schmall BOOKKEEPERKathleen Halligan LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTORJoAnne Romer-Aylward DIR. OF RELIGIOUS ED.Julie Dew OCIADc. Jim Schmall ART & ENVIRONMENTMichele Girard & Norene O'Donnell	GARDENS & GROUNDS Ilene Rainwater FACILITIES David Girard SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE JoAnne Romer-Aylward PASTORAL CARE Suzie Fay ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP Camilla Sorrell COLUMBARIUM Bob Eberhardt WELCOMING, EVENTS & All Parishioners SOCIALS TEAM (WEST) PARISH ASSOCIATIONS: ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: Debbie Eberhardt COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN: Ilene Rainwater
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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 5/25 8:30 AM Xemina & Seth Giraldo
Tue 5/26 8:30 AM Jack Troupe +
Wed 5/27 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 5/28 8:30 AM Jim & Burma Schmall +
Fri 5/29 8:30 AM Maria Allocco
Sat 5/30 4:00 PM Bob & Debbie Eberhardt
Sun 5/31 9:00 AM Paul Gallagher +

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., Cathy Luck

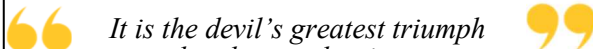
SANCTUARY FLOWERS: The sanctuary flowers are in memory of Dr. John G. Yager given by Gail and Eric Simmons. If you would like to donate to the altar flowers fund in memory of or in honor of someone, contact the Parish Office via phone or email. The cost is \$40.00 for 1 week. Thank You!



SANCTUARY CANDLE: The Sanctuary candle is lit in memory of Betty Jean Rademacher Gil-mour given by Kelly and Don Rademacher. 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



*It is the devil's greatest triumph
when he can deprive us
of the joy of the Spirit.*

- St. Francis of Assisi
1181 - 1226

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	5/25	9:00 AM	Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue	5/26		
Wed	5/27		
Thu	5/28		
Fri	5/29		
Sat	5/30	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	5/31	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass



**Memorial Day
Monday
5/25/26**



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



THE MIRACLE OF PENTECOST

We live in a time of incredible noise. Voices flood our social media. There are many voices out there trying to cloud the voice of God. But how many of those voices actually speak our language? How many know enough of our stories – our wounds, our hopes, our particular human experiences – to reach past the surface?

The miracle of Pentecost is not just about multilingual proclamation. It's about divine empathy. It's about God's Spirit equipping the church to speak the Gospel in a way that is intelligible to every human heart. That's our call, too – to become fluent not just in doctrine but in

the lived experience of our neighbors, to know the language of someone else's life enough to speak Christ into it with meaning.

Sometimes it means literal translation: learning new languages, honoring the cultural traditions of others, praying and worshiping in ways that make room for different communities. But often it is more subtle. It's learning to speak the language of grief when someone's life has been marked by loss. It's learning to speak the language of resilience to someone who's endured injustice. It's learning to speak the language of curiosity to a young person full of questions, or the language of patience to someone who's been hurt by the church and isn't ready to trust again. Many of those who have travelled as missionaries to Colombia wonder how they are going to communicate in Spanish with the people there. I say to you, use the language of love. Love is the universal language we can all speak.

This kind of fluency doesn't come from books. It comes from listening. From being willing to sit long enough with someone's story that you can name what's sacred in it. It comes from humility, from being in the middle of the flock. As Pope Francis told us: we have to smell like sheep.

Pentecost reminds us there isn't one perfect way to proclaim the Gospel. There is only the Spirit's way – diverse, wide-reaching, deeply personal. Our job is to enter into a relationship, to listen with love, and then – only then, to speak the word that is needed.

We might think the Holy Spirit came to make things easier for the disciples and us. The Holy Spirit came to make us more courageous, braver, eager to bring the Good News of the Gospel to other brothers and sisters, to bring a message of hope to the oppressed, the poor and needy in our world.

Pentecost is not just another feast we bring to our memories every year. We must ask ourselves whose language we need to learn? Whose story do we try to ignore or understand? Who needs a more loving voice? We need to pray for the Spirit to come upon us, not in fire and wind, but in understanding to proclaim the Gospel not by words but in relationship. Then, the world will begin to hear. That's when the Church begins to speak. That's when the Spirit is at work.



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

*“The Eucharist is a perpetual Pentecost.
Every time we celebrate Mass, we receive the Holy Spirit
who unites us more deeply with Christ
and transforms us into Him.”*

- Pope Benedict XVI (1927-2022)

CATECHISM

ORNER



BY: Julie Dew

Happy Birthday St. Francis! Today is Pentecost, the birth of the Church! Happy birthday to us! Today commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary, fifty days after Easter, when “tongues as of fire” appeared and the apostles were empowered to preach the Gospel. This event is recorded in Acts 2 and is celebrated as the decisive beginning of the apostolic mission of the Church. Pentecost marks one of the most important feasts in the Church’s liturgical year.

Liturgical and theological notes: Date and season: Pentecost falls on the fiftieth day of the Easter season (the Greek pentēkostē, “fiftieth”) and concludes Paschal Tide.

Signs and symbols: Red vestments and imagery of fire and wind recall the Holy Spirit’s presence; liturgical texts invoke the Spirit’s gifts (wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, fear of the Lord).

Ecclesial significance: Pentecost is often called the “birthday of the Church” because the Spirit’s outpouring made the Church manifest and effective for mission; in the Church’s life it is closely linked with the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, by which the faithful receive the Spirit.

When the Holy Spirit descends upon the apostles on Pentecost, their doubts disappear. As a result, they fully understand that Jesus is a far greater king. Unlike his royal Davidic namesake, who died and suffered bodily corruption, Jesus reigns with eternal glory. And as in Acts 2:1-4. The Acts of the Apostles, the second volume of Luke’s two-volume work, continues Luke’s presentation of biblical history, serves as a testament to the universal mission of the Church and the transformative power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the first Christians. It provides critical details about the life of the Church during the apostolic age, its hierarchy, and its missionary spirit.

One of many details curiously missing in Scripture is the moment when Jesus, risen and glorified, **first** sees His mother again. Was it here at Pentecost, or earlier? The Gospels don’t describe it. Maybe it was too holy, too intimate for words. I love to imagine it...Mary, who stood beneath the cross, now standing before her Son, alive. The joy must have been overwhelming, yet quiet. A sacred joy. I imagine Mary rushing to Him, tears streaming down her face. Or maybe she simply fell to her knees in awe, and Jesus bent low to lift her up. However it happened, you can be sure it was tucked away in her heart, just like she treasured the mystery of Bethlehem, the finding in the Temple, the wedding at Cana..... We don’t need every detail written down to know: Christ is always faithful. The same tender love He had for His Mother, Mary, is the love He has for us, waiting quietly to meet us again in the ordinary moments of our lives, if only we pause to see Him. –The Little Rose Shop.

Here’s something interesting: For the Jews, The Feast of Pentecost (also known as the Feast Weeks) is the second in importance of the great Jewish feasts. When concerning the Old Testament, you’re dealing with the feast of harvest of the first fruits, not today’s feast. To understand the Jewish Feast of Pentecost better, please read Leviticus 23:15–21, Exodus 23:16, Deuteronomy 16:9–10, 2 Chronicles 8:12–13 – Mentions the Feast of Weeks. BibleHub.com

Until next week, St. Francis, have a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day!



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



*Christ asks us to love and serve God and our neighbor
with our entire heart, soul, mind, and body.
And indeed these goals are overwhelming and unreachable -
without the Holy Spirit!*



- Richard J. Hauser, SJ (Moving in the Spirit)

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 Pentecost, Jesus says to his disciples: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 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 by providing food from our food pantry and monetary 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 MAY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" INSTANT COFFEE AND CREAMER



BISHOP'S APPEAL for MINISTRIES

Building up the Church in East Tennessee

APRIL 2026

Pledged: \$19,940
Collections to Date: \$14,615

Collections Needed to Reach Goal:
\$5,325.00

Due to your tremendous support, the Bishop's Appeal for Ministries continues to support and strengthen the programs, services, and ministries of our Church. Thank you St. Francis of Assisi, Townsend - you are making ministries possible!



DIocese of KNOXVILLE

Ordination to the Priesthood

The Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Saturday, June 6, 2026, 10:30am



Deacon Daniel Cooper

A reception will follow in
the Cathedral Hall.



OFFICE OF CATHOLIC MINISTRIES | 1000 OXLEY DRIVE, KNOXVILLE, TN 37914



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.



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:

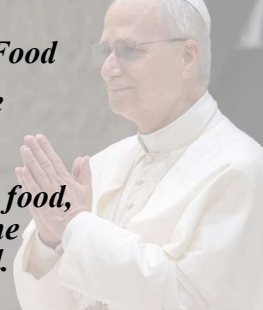
- Pray the Sacred Heart Novena June 3-11, leading up to the national consecration
- Consecrate yourself or your family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Commit to be part of national Works of Mercy and Holy Hour campaigns
- Attend Mass on the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Friday, June 12
- Enthroned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



DIOKNOX.ORG

POPE LEO'S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION FOR 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.





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

