



# MAY 3, 2026 5TH 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

<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 5/4** 8:30 AM Evelyn Provenzo †  
**Tue 5/5** 8:30 AM Bill Irby †  
**Wed 5/6** **NO MORNING MASS**  
**Thu 5/7** 8:30 AM Bishop Emeritus, Richard Stika †  
**Fri 5/8** 8:30 AM Fr. Joseph Mary Hammond, CHS †  
**Sat 5/9** 4:00 PM Elizabeth-Isave Dang Thi Sinh †  
**Sun 5/10** 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, Mark Reddan, Terry Keran, Beryl Quinton, Obed Sexton, the Gruber Family, Betty Gonzalez, Carmen Milton, Carolyn & Bruce Haverkos, Marlene Doerrer, Monica Meyerkord, 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

*I have been all things unholy.  
 If God can work through me,  
 He can work through anyone.*

- 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>5/4</b>	9:00 AM	Church and Hall Cleaning
<b>Tue</b>	<b>5/5</b>		
<b>Wed</b>	<b>5/6</b>	5:00 PM	SVdP - Gracehill
<b>Thu</b>	<b>5/7</b>		
<b>Fri</b>	<b>5/8</b>		
<b>Sat</b>	<b>5/9</b>	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>5/10</b>	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass



## THE CHURCH - A DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES

Today's liturgy has far-reaching implications for the life of ministry within any parish. The readings are rooted in self-sacrificing love. All of our love is to flow from the example of Christ.

As the Christian church grew, there was a need to adapt community mores to meet the needs of the newly formed community. There were Greek-speaking converts, Greek-speaking Jewish converts, and Jewish Hebrew-speaking converts – all of them Christian.

The church had to adapt and adjust to the influx of new people. Enculturation was a problem for the Jews as well as the Christians. The Greek-speaking Christians felt that their widows were given less than their Jewish counterparts. To solve the problem the apostles invited the Hellenists (Greeks) to appoint seven of their own men to take on the task of waiting on the tables of the entire community. The apostles prayed and laid hands on them.

In today's second reading, St. Peter tells us that we are to be living stones, built into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices. The church building is a structure that, at its best and most profound, speaks of a greater reality: the mystery of Christ's eternal love, which is celebrated and shared within it. We who gather are living stones, drawn into union with Christ through the saving acts in which we participate here. The church building provides a place in which the church, the Body of Christ, may come together.

In today's gospel Jesus speaks of a different dwelling, the Father's house, in which there are many dwelling places, the abiding place of God heaven. But as hopeful as dwelling with God throughout eternity is, the disciples were confused. How can they go to an unknown place? How can they know the Father, whom they have not seen? We can almost hear the exasperation and the frustration in Jesus' voice as he expresses one of the great mysteries of our Christian faith. When we know Jesus, we know the Father. Where the Father is, so is the Lord. They dwell in perfect union with one another, and so, as people who have been drawn to Christ in baptism and are nourished in this union with the Eucharist, we, too, know and may call God our Father. This union is a deep mystery that is at the very heart of what it means to be a Christian.

It was not easy for early Christians to learn to form community with one another, nor is it easy for us today. We live in a culture that prizes the individual – me first, every person for him- or her- self. Yet, here, we are formed in a different way, Christ's way, the way of love. Sacrificial love. A love in which we know ourselves united to one another and to all humanity, charged with sharing in the mission of Christ, to make God's love known through our works, words and actions. The sacrifices we make for the sake of others have spiritual meaning. When we sacrifice – sharing love, care, our lives, and resources – we give of ourselves in response to the one great sacrifice of love of Jesus, the crucified and risen Lord.

Through our baptism we've already been equipped for this mission. We've been given the Spirit. The only question is: Are we willing to listen, to adapt, and to love in the same wild, expansive generosity that Christ himself modeled? That's the kind of work the world needs, now more than ever. That's the kind of church Jesus believes we can be.



## CATECHISM

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BY: *Julie Dew*

## ANNAS AND CAIAPHAS

Welcome to the Fifth Sunday of Easter! Today in the “Corner” we will be discussing the chief priests, who were high-ranking Jewish priests, primarily from the Sadducean sect, who oversaw the Temple and served on the Sanhedrin which held significant religious and political authority during Jesus’ time. The Sanhedrin was the supreme Jewish council and court of justice in ancient Israel, centered in Jerusalem. The assembly included chief priests, scribes, and elders (or “ancients”) and met to judge religious disputes, judge civil and criminal cases, and issue authoritative interpretations of the Law. Under Roman rule (first century AD) the Sanhedrin retained wide jurisdiction over internal Jewish matters, though acts such as capital punishment sometimes required Roman confirmation. Today, we will focus on Annas and Caiaphas.

The Gospels report that Jesus was brought before the leading priests and the high-priestly figures of Jerusalem, chiefly Annas and Joseph Ben Caiaphas (often just called Caiaphas). Catholic Answers’ encyclopedia article on Caiaphas notes his appointment and role as the official high priest in the years about A.D. 18–36. Annas actually was “retired” but had great influence with his son-in-law Caiaphas. The Sadducees are described on Catholic Answers as the priestly, Temple-centered party that largely comprised the priestly aristocracy and high-priestly families. Remember from the Old Testament of the Tribe of Levites who were in charge with minor but essential functions in the worship and governance of the sanctuary. While many Sadducees came from the priestly families within the tribe of Levi, not all Levites were Sadducees, and the Sadducees themselves were defined by party affiliation and priestly influence rather than by tribal identity alone.

Caiphas was certainly the only official high priest at the time St. Luke refers to, at the beginning of the public life of Christ; but Annas still had his “former title” and a good deal of influence by his former authority. The role assigned him in the trial of Christ, in John 18, points to the same continued influence. In the measures taken by the Jewish authorities to do away with Jesus, Caiaphas certainly had the most reprehensible part. Wouldn’t you agree? Here’s a tidbit: underneath the “house” of Caiaphas was a dungeon or prison. This is where Jesus was held before his crucifixion and possibly because of the location, Jesus heard Peter’s denial. Think about that for a moment.

After the raising of Lazarus, the priests and Pharisees united and held counsel to determine what was to be done in view of the visible signs of the “Prophet of Nazareth” and what they were to consider the danger resulting to the country. The words of Caiaphas, are reported by St. John 6:49-50: “You know nothing. Neither do you consider that it is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.” They show a disdain for others, and a determination to get rid of this man who was displeasing to them, without any consideration of the justice of his cause. But while we may see in the statement of Caiaphas the expression of very unworthy attitudes, though he could not have realized the full importance of those mysterious words, we are warned by St. John that it was prophetic. The death of Jesus by the most unscrupulous means were employed in order to bring it about, and Caiaphas is chiefly to blame. As high-priest, Caiaphas was the official head of the Sanhedrin, and consequently responsible for the charade of a trial by the Jewish authorities, before they handed Him over to Pilate and stirred up the people to demand His death.

After the death and resurrection of Jesus, Caiaphas continued to persecute Jesus’ followers. When Peter and John were brought before the Council after the cure of the lame man at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple, Caiaphas was still high-priest, we can say with almost equal certainty that he was still the high-priest when St. Stephen appeared. And that it is from him (Caiaphas) that Saul obtained letters authorizing him to bring the Christians of Damascus to Jerusalem. Please read the Acts of the Apostles for more information!

At a time when high priests were made and unmade at will by the officials of Rome, and when the principal quality required seems to have been subserviency, it is no credit to the character of Caiaphas to have enjoyed their favor so long. He was removed in A.D. 36 or 37 and we are not told what became of him after his removal.

Good stuff! Right? Next week, we will highlight Pilate and Herod, so fasten your seatbelts! Until then, have a most glorious week in this beautiful area of the country!



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today, Jesus says "...whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father."

Through your almsgiving you are performing a good work; far greater than you think. The coins placed in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box bring Christ's love and compassion to the 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 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.



### SVDP WELCOMES WOMEN'S RETREAT VISITORS FROM NASHVILLE, TN

The Women's Group of St. Paul, United Methodist Church, Nashville TN, paid a visit to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry on April 21st. The group was greeted and given a tour of the Food Pantry by Debbie Eberhardt, Kathy Meyerkord, Norene O'Donnell and Kathleen Carr. Deacon Jim was on hand for a picture. They were

in Townsend for the week on a Women's retreat and as their service project made a donation to the Food Pantry. The group brought food for the pantry along with a monetary donation.



### FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM

Bob Eberhardt, assisted by Tom Dittmaier and Dan O'Donnell,

taught a Financial Literacy Program to the 4th and 5th grade students at Townsend Elementary School on April 27th.

The Program was created by Bob, and sponsored by SVdP, to help educate the children on understanding basic finances: Checking vs. savings accounts, Credit Unions vs. Banks, Budgeting, calculating interests, credit cards vs. Debit cards and much more!

SVdP supplied piggy banks with \$5.00 to each student, that will be decorated in Art Class. In addition to the banks, Credit Union 1 gave each student a notebook.

Principal Ashley Ivens was very thankful to Bob and the team and requested them for next year too! Even the 4th Grade Teacher's Assistant said she learned something!



### SEE SOMEONE IN NEED? LET US KNOW!

Do you know of any neighbor or another that can use some help?

If so, please do not hesitate to refer them to St. Vincent de Paul! We are able to provide food from our Food Pantry and help with some basic financial needs: utility expenses, rent or other bills too.

We serve those that reside in the Townsend, Walland, Wears Valley zip code of 37882, 37862, and Maryville zip codes 37803 & 37804. The St. Vincent de Paul phone number is

**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**

*"I look upon the host  
whenever I am at Mass,  
speechless  
and struck with awe  
at such humility."*

*- Mother Angelica  
1923 - 2016*



*Daily* **CATHOLIC WISDOM**



*A lot of the dissatisfaction we experience in this lifetime  
comes from forgetting that we are made for mission.*

*God didn't create us to be served;  
He created us TO serve.*

*- Matthew Kelly - Resisting Happiness*



**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
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

**DEACON  
FORMATION**



BY: DAVID QUINN

**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.