



MAY 31, 2026 THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

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
BOOKKEEPER Kathleen 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
OCIA Dc. Jim Schmall	WELCOMING, EVENTS & All Parishioners
ART & ENVIRONMENT Michele 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 6/1	8:30 AM	Fr. Joseph Mary Hammond, CHS †
Tue 6/2	8:30 AM	Bishop Emeritus, Richard Stika †
Wed 6/3		NO MORNING MASS
Thu 6/4	8:30 AM	Tom & Suzie Faye (Anniversary)
Fri 6/5	8:30 AM	Bernard Eberhardt; † Rex Bell
Sat 6/6	4:00 PM	Philip Peychal †
Sun 6/7	9:00 AM	Judas Thaddeus, Vo Van Thief †

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: 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 Giraldo given by Yvonne and John Peychal. 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!



TRULY WE ARE OF ONE HEART!



Our One Heart Colombia Mission Team is please to share with you the wonderful outcome of our recent Vidalia Onion fundraiser! Our parish alone sold 84 bags (\$840!) and received over \$1,500 in cash donations to be used for this year's mission trip in providing food bags

to the marginalized families in Marsella, Colombia! Your generous hearts will help to feed hundreds of families and give hundreds of children the opportunity to attend a Vacation Bible School where they will strengthen their knowledge and love for Jesus!

: THANKS :
for your

DONATIONS



ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon 6/1	9:00 AM	Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue 6/2		
Wed 6/3		
Thu 6/4		
Fri 6/5	9:00 AM	First Friday Adoration
Sat 6/6	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun 6/7	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

OPEN
after weekend Masses
and by request/appointment
after daily Mass



THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Today we celebrate the Mystery of the Holy Trinity – Three persons – One God. The Holy Trinity is about relationship, God in three persons living in total union and communion. They are indeed, one while remaining three distinct Persons.

Before we attempt to unravel the Mystery of the Trinity – before we start trying to grasp how God can be three in one – let's start with the truth God wanted us to know first: *Who He is for us*. There is a quiet moment in our reading from the Book of Exodus where God passes before Moses. Unlike the gods of other ancient religions, who introduced themselves with power

or punishment, this God speaks his own name: "The Lord, the Lord, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity." That's how God names himself – not in abstract terms or philosophical categories but in the language of relationship: mercy, grace, patience, love and faithfulness. He is a God of mercy. He is a God who waits.

As expressed in several dialogues between God and Moses, what is revealed is God's desire to be in relationship with his people. The Law is not so much given as "a list of thou shalt not;" rather, by being faithful to the law, the Israelites will be in right relationship with their God. The Ten Commandments are a blueprint for being in right relationship. Our Lord is a "merciful gracious God. Slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity." He is a God who forgives our faults and shortcomings, over, and over, again because he is love.

Paul continues to express this unconditional love in his second Letter to the Corinthians when he writes, "The love of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship with the Holy Spirit." Our God, the Holy Trinity, is not a God of division and conflict. God will only dwell in our midst if we are willing to live in communion, in peace, and in forgiveness in imitation of the Trinitarian Godhead.

Our gospel reading continues to emphasize love and relationship. God has an intense desire for a relationship with God's creation. God does not wait for us to turn to God or become God's friends. Instead, even if we are enemies, God demonstrates God's love for us by sending his only begotten Son, Jesus, to suffer and die for us.

Trinity Sunday is a day to both marvel at the mystery of God and be humble by it. When we profess belief in the Trinity, we force our minds to admit that we do not fully grasp God. We cannot trace the full arc of his plans. We cannot always see how mercy is operating in real time. But through faith, we free ourselves from the burden of needing to understand everything. Belief opens a door. It allows us to see hope where others only see despair, healing where there is been hurt, and yes, even the presence of God in a world that still groans for redemption.

So today, remember the God who names himself. Ask where mercy has met you. Offer your pain if you cannot yet see it. Laugh gently at your own stubbornness. And then step into belief – not as a full understanding but as a full surrender to God's very own life, love, and grace.



Image courtesy of favpng.com

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

"O Trinity, eternal Trinity! Fire, abyss of love ... Was it necessary that you should give even the Holy Trinity as food for souls? You gave us not only your Word through the Redemption and in the Eucharist, but you also gave yourself in the fullness of love for your creature.

- St. Catherine of Siena (1347-1380)



CATECHISM

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BY: *Julie Dew*

HAPPY TRINITY SUNDAY ST. FRANCIS!

We are in the middle of three major Sunday solemnities. May 24th was the Solemnity of Pentecost, May 31st, today, is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity and June 7th is the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, often called "Corpus Christi Sunday." You can say it, because I'm thinking it! We're having a Catholic Trifecta!

These three feasts are closely intertwined, though they might not appear so at first, especially since Ordinary Time weaves through the weekdays among them. Part of the reason for why they might seem disconnected could be the loss of the Pentecost octave. Pentecost used to have its own octave, so that Trinity Sunday was also its octave day. To really explain all this would take another Catechism Corner, maybe two! But please be assured, the theme connecting these three solemnities is life. Life in the Spirit, the love and life of the Mystery of the Trinity, and through the invocation of the Holy Spirit at each Mass, we receive the true Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ in the life giving Eucharist.

To continue with the different people, places and little tidbits about the Season of Lent, let's discuss Golgotha. Golgotha, the place of the Skull. It's calvaria in Latin and known as Mount Calvary. Some of the depictions whether in paintings or movies often show this is as a great mountain and that's OK in a way because it's trying to show the theological significance of the cross. But I think of Golgotha now as this kind of dirty little place - maybe because it was shaped like a skull, that's one reason - or people speculate because there were a lot of human skulls around that place if it was a spot of execution. Today if you go to Jerusalem the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is over it! If you had a chance to watch Jeff Cavins and Jonathon Roumie on the Hallow App during Holy Week, they visited the site. The word that keeps coming to my mind about that episode is powerful!

Do you see why crucifixion was reserved for the lowest members of the society, for slaves, for people that Rome had to contempt for?

The last person I'd like to mention is the soldier who pierced Jesus' side who is recorded in the Gospels as saying, "Truly, this was the Son of God" (Matthew 27:54; Mark 15:39; John 19:35-37). This statement came after Jesus had just breathed His last, and the soldier, most likely a Roman centurion, was struck by all the supernatural events - such as the earthquake, the tearing of the temple curtain, and the blood and water flowing from Jesus' side that occurred. According to the Gospel of John, the soldier's testimony was so clear and certain that he said, "He who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe" (John 19:35). This was a powerful, firsthand declaration that Jesus was indeed the Messiah.

As for what happened afterward, the Bible does not give further details of the soldier's life. However, early Christian tradition holds that the soldier, named Longinus, was converted by this moment, left his military post, and became a follower of Christ.

One of our neophytes (candidates/catechumens who came into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil), Thomas, selected St. Longinus for his Confirmation name! St. Bede and many others report that Longinus was martyred for his faith in Cappadocia in A.D. 58 and give March 15 as his feast day. St. Longinus, pray for us!

If I did not "talk" about a person or place that interests you, please contact me at jdewtn2018@att.net and I'll try to research your request!

St. Francis, have a peaceful week filled the joys of Spring!

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION - 6/5/26



“Always remain close to the Catholic Church, because it alone can give you true peace, since it alone possesses Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, the true Prince of Peace.”

- St. Padre Pio

Mass: 8:30 AM
Adoration: 9:00 - Noon
Healing Service: 9:00 AM (in Shea Hall)
Benediction: Noon

If you are interested in committing to a Holy Hour, please contact Jackie Wagner at 330-807-8663.



You will probably gain more by praying fifteen minutes before the Blessed Sacrament than by all the other spiritual exercises of the day. True, Our Lord hears our prayers anywhere, for He has made the promise, “Ask and you shall receive” but He has revealed to His servants, that those who visit Him in the Blessed Sacrament will obtain a more abundant measure of grace.

Saint Alphonsus Liguori

www.ANF.org

2026 BISHOP'S APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: PERMANENT DIACONATE



This month we highlight an area where your support is making a real difference – within the ministry of the permanent diaconate. A permanent deacon is an ordained minister in the Catholic Church whose role is centered on service - both within a parish and out in the community. Through holy orders, permanent deacons proclaim the Gospel, assist at the altar, and carry Christ's compassion into daily life. In moments of joy and sorrow, they walk with families and strengthen the faithful across East Tennessee.

Our deacons faithfully serve in parishes, hospitals, food pantries, and outreach programs to bring Christ's presence to those in need. Through the Bishop's Appeal for Ministries, the Church is able to support the formation and ongoing education of these dedicated men, ensuring that they are well-prepared to serve with compassion, wisdom, and humility. This investment strengthens not only the diaconate itself but the entire faith community they serve. A permanent deacon's ministry is meant to bridge everyday life and the Church's mission. Your support of the ministries of our local Church is vital, and we thank you for your continued generosity.



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



Isn't it wonderful that we have this doctrine of the Trinity that speaks of God as a fellowship, a community. So, you have this wonderful image of the community that is God, the Trinity.



- Desmond Tutu



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

As we celebrate the mystery of the Trinity we also realize the mystery of how much God loves and cares for us each day. Believing in this, our lives can then overflow in thanksgiving and praise. Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box will help the poor to believe in the mystery of God's love for them.

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 JUNE "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"



BISHOP'S APPEAL for MINISTRIES

Building up the Church in East Tennessee

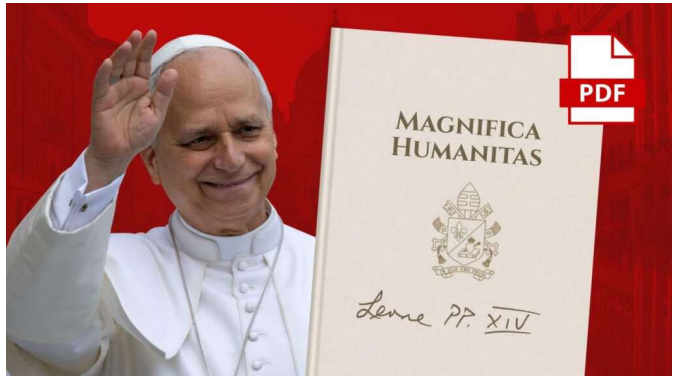
APRIL 2026

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!

MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS MAGNIFICENT HUMANITY



The first encyclical from Pope Leo XIV is now available for all to read. EWTN is one of many organizations offering a free downloadable (PDF) link to the encyclical:

<https://ewtnvatican.com/articles/full-text-magnifica-humanitas>

This 82-page, 5-chapter encyclical develops the Church's social teaching in light of artificial intelligence, situating new questions of human dignity, labor, and the common good within the tradition that runs from *Rerum Novarum* through *Centesimus Annus* and *Laudato Si'*.

More downloadable resources listed on poster in Shea Hall.



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

‘PRAY WITH THE POPE’ INITIATIVE

The Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network and the Dicastery for Communication announced January 7, 2026 the “Pray with the Pope” project. According to a press release, this is a new initiative in which the pope will share his monthly prayer intentions through both video and audio, “inviting the universal Church and all people of goodwill to unite spiritually, using the same prayer that will now be led by the pope himself.”

“This initiative aims to increase the visibility of the pope’s prayer intentions, using a language suitable for prayer, in new formats, so as to better reach the faithful throughout the world, especially in today’s world of digital communication,” the press release stated.

In the full video shared on the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network website (<https://www.popesprayer.va/praywiththepope/>), Pope Leo recites an original prayer written specifically for each month of the year.



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

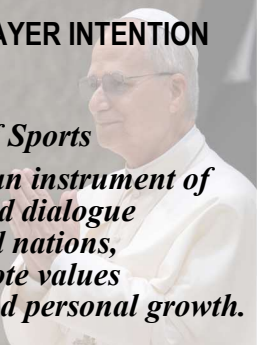
**ST. FRANCIS WORDS OF WISDOM
JUBILEE YEAR 2026**



“ *It was easy to love God in all that was beautiful. The lessons of deeper knowledge, though, instructed me to embrace God in all things.* ”
- St. Francis of Assisi
1181 - 1226

**POPE LEO’S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION
JUNE 2026**

*For the Values of Sports
Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.*



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

