



JUNE 14, 2026 11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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	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 DIRECTOR JoAnne 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 6/15	8:30 AM	Communion Service
Tue 6/16	8:30 AM	Communion Service
Wed 6/17		NO MORNING MASS
Thu 6/18	8:30 AM	Communion Service
Fri 6/19	8:30 AM	Communion Service
Sat 6/20	4:00 PM	Joe & Eli Eberhardt
Sun 6/21	9:00 AM	Liberatore Allocco ⁺ & Maria Allocco

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: 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!



2026 MISSION TRIP JUNE 16-30

Pray for our missionaries Fr. Antonio, Ilene Rainwater, and all of the other missionaries as they embark on their 2026 mission trip to Marsella, Colombia.

One Heart Colombia, founded by Fr. Antonio, is a Christian non-profit mission in their 21st year of dedication to helping the most vulnerable in Colombia. While our missionaries are in Colombia they will attend daily Mass, visit the homebound, assist in facilitating a Vacation Bible School (VBS) for approximately 200 children, distribute food bags to needy families, and immerse themselves in daily Colombian life. Please pray for a safe journey, a safe visit, and a safe return with a lifetime of memories.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon 6/15	9:00 AM	Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue 6/16		
Wed 6/17		
Thu 6/18		
Fri 6/19		
Sat 6/20	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun 6/21	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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



SHARE YOUR FAITH WITH YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Almost daily our television news shows us suffering crowds of people. They are the victims of war, ethnic cleansing, floods, or famine. Millions of God's people are refugees without decent human housing and food. Among these crowds are millions of children, child laborers, child prostitutes, and the abandoned baby girls. For all of these, just as for the crowds in today's gospel, surely Jesus' heart "is moved with pity." Just as he called his apostles, Jesus is calling us to be laborers for the harvest, to have compassion for the world's suffering people.

Mathew in this gospel is, in a way, summarizing the entire biblical story – yes, the story that begins in Genesis and concludes with the establishment of the New Jerusalem in the Book of Revelation.

In Genesis we learn how humanity became alienated from God, its Creator. God did not abandon humanity, however. Beginning with Abraham and Sarah, God called and guided a people that would heal all humanity of its addiction to sin.

We read on in the Bible how these chosen people struggle to live out their calling to reconcile the world to God. Matthew tells of how Jesus is moved with pity because the people he encounters seem like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus takes on the role of his Father, wanting humanity to be truly free. Knowing that he is only one person, Jesus calls twelve of his disciples, symbolic of the twelve tribes of Israel, and gives them a mission. What was done before is now being done anew in Jesus Christ.

Our church has a long story of missionary work. Members of religious orders and lay women and men have given their lives to witness to Christ's message. And in this missionary endeavor, believers have worked for human dignity, against indecent housing, poor sanitation, and disease. All of these people were moved by the same faith and compassion that touched the heart of our Lord.

Certainly not all compassionate believers are able to become missionaries in other lands. You can always pray for missions, work for the missions and support economically the missions. During the last twenty-three years I have been able to do missions in a little town in Colombia, Marsella. It is a wonderful, rather safe place to experience some of the different situations of poor people. The people of Marsella know us, love us, and take care of us. We are open to those who want to come to this mission, pray for the mission, or generously support this mission. We know that all Christians, men and women, through the centuries have been witnesses to Christ's mission. They have been ordinary people of faith whose very lives have announced that "the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Faith engenders faith. Jesus' words to his apostles and to us are very clear, "Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



Teach us to give and not to count the cost.



*- Ignatius of Loyola
1491-1556*

CATECHISM

ORNER



BY: *David Quinn*

THE MISSING BOOKS OF THE BIBLE - TOBIT

We're going to start our series on books of the Catholic Bible not in Protestant Bibles with the Book of Tobit. I'm starting here because this may be my favorite book of the Bible. If Mel Gibson were going to create another faith-based movie, he should start with Tobit. Tobit has all the elements of a great story, like the movie *The Princess Bride* – it has angels, demons, quests, miracles, treasures, amazing prayers, and true love. All in just 14 chapters.

The book starts with its namesake, Tobit, living under the rule of the Assyrians in Nineveh (see Jonah) after the fall of the Northern Tribes of Israel. Tobit was a righteous man, constantly looking to perform charitable acts, specifically burying the dead. The king had ruled that the Israelites that had been killed should be left in the streets as a deterrent, but Tobit would sneak around, grab the bodies, and bury them. He was finally arrested and sentenced to death. But the king died so Tobit was released.

Tobit's release was around the time of Pentecost, the Jewish festival of old. His family was about to sit down to a feast when he told his son to go find some less fortunate neighbors and bring them to the feast. This would kind of be like starting to sit down to Thanksgiving dinner and telling someone to go find a homeless person to dine with them. Again, Tobit was a righteous man.

Since no good deed goes unpunished, Tobit was blinded with white scales over his eyes (see St. Paul). He and his wife were becoming desperate when he remembered that he deposited a large sum of money with a distant relative. Over the objections of his wife, Tobit sent his son Tobiah off to collect the money from their relative. To help ease his wife's concerns, Tobit enlisted the help of a stranger who claimed to be a distant relative. Tobiah and his companion set off on their journey.

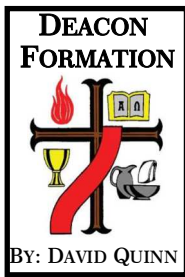
While they are traveling, we find out the distant relative they are going to see has a daughter, Sarah, who is wise and beautiful but cursed with a demon. Sarah was to be married seven times but each time on the wedding night, the demon would take over and kill the groom. Her parents feared she would never be married. Tobiah would be the next in line to have Sarah as his bride according to Jewish law but he is warned about the demon.

Before Tobiah and his companion arrived, they stop to wash off in water and Tobiah catches a large fish. The companion tells Tobiah to save the gall, heart, and liver as they will be useful as medicine. They eat the fish and continue their journey. When they arrive at their destination, Tobit's relative asks how Tobit is doing. He is saddened to hear Tobit has been blinded. But then Tobiah gets introduced to Sarah. It is love at first sight and they are to be wedded. Before the wedding, Tobiah's companion tells Tobiah how to use the fish liver and heart to get rid of the demon. In their chamber after the wedding, Tobiah uses the fish parts to dispel the demon. Just as they are about to go to bed, the happy couple realizes they need to pray to God first. It is a beautiful prayer of thanks and worship.

Sarah's family is surprised to find out Tobiah lived through the night. Tobiah gets his father's money from safe-keeping and takes his new bride back home. Tobiah's mother is sure Tobiah is dead because he has been gone so long and rejoices when she sees him return. Tobiah uses the fish gall on Tobit's eyes and suddenly the scales disappear and he can see again. Everyone is just overjoyed.

Tobit and Tobiah look to settle up with Tobiah's companion for accompanying him on the journey. This is when they find out that the companion is not a distant relative but an angel sent by the Lord, Raphael, one of the seven Archangels. Being moved with even more joy, Tobit leads another incredible prayer of thanks to God.

Of course, I cannot do the story justice but it is definitely a book that if you haven't read before or haven't read recently, it is worth reading. You'll also likely join me in being saddened that the Protestants don't have this remarkable book in their bibles.



BECOMING A DEACON – PATRISTICS

The very beginning of the Church started with those people who were either followers of the Apostles (e.g., St. Polycarp) or learned directly from the followers of the Apostles (e.g., St. Irenaeus). In other words, they were only one or two generations from the Apostles who were spreading their interactions with Jesus. The next generation after these Church Fathers were the initial Church apologists. This generally covers the years 100-600 AD.

Many or most of the early Church Fathers were martyred for their beliefs. They looked to express their beliefs in philosophical ways, which was how arguments were made at that time. We see a lot of that approach in St. Paul's epistles. These martyrs included people like St. Justin Martyr, Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, St. Blandina, and St. Sanctus (a deacon). Many of the Church Fathers were also having to deal with heresies that were starting to spread. The biggest defender of the faith was St. Augustine. The defense against heresies led to expanding the Apostles Creed to the Nicene Creed.

WELCOME JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMS!



With our parish designated as a St. Francis of Assisi pilgrimage site for the 800th anniversary of his transitus, we have developed a package for pilgrims to use as they visit our parish. There is a special program for the jubilee year that highlights different parts of our parish that could help in praying during your pilgrimage here. The package also has the parish history pamphlet that is available in the Narthex for all visitors. Also included in the package is a St. Francis prayer card. The packages are in a display box in front of the Parish Resource Center (PRC) near the sidewalk between the PRC and the church and are for you to keep. And for any visitors that did not realize that they are at a pilgrimage site, there is information in the package that explains how to gain an indulgence during your visit here. Welcome, Pilgrims!

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST



“The institution of the Eucharist, for that matter, anticipates the very heart of Jesus' mission: he is the one sent by the Father for the redemption of the world (cf. Jn 3:16-17; Rom 8:32). At the Last Supper, Jesus entrusts to his disciples the sacrament which makes present his self-sacrifice for the salvation of us all, in obedience to the Father's will. We cannot approach the eucharistic table without being drawn into the mission which, beginning in the very heart of God, is meant to reach all people. Missionary outreach is thus an essential part of the eucharistic form of the Christian life.”

*Pope Benedict XVI (1927-2022)
Sacramentum Caritatis
The Eucharist and Mission #84*



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today we hear Jesus say to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send laborers for his harvest."

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.



Image by pngtree.com

SVDP normally meets
the 1st and 3rd
Wednesdays of the month at
5:00 PM in the PRC.

All are welcome when we
meet, however **we are taking a summer break from meetings and will not meet again until August 5th!**

SVDP JUNE "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"



Images by pngtree.com

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 preprinted 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.

865-312-0141



***Gather Good News* DONATES SUBSCRIPTIONS FEES TO SVDP FOOD BANK**

Gather Good News is a local Wears Valley monthly electronic publication via subscription. The editor, Bill Gathergood, and all the patrons/subscribers of the newsletter selected St. Vincent de Paul's Townsend Food Pantry as the recipient of their donated subscriptions fees.

Each year *Gather Good News* subscription fees are donated to the St. Francis Food Bank. The subscription fee for each reader is \$20 per year. This year subscribers were asked to consider making a larger donation due to the greater economic need at the Food Bank. The subscribers came through in a big way! The yearly donation amount usually ranges between \$700.00 and \$800.00 a year, however, the contribution this year is \$1,025!

Thank you Gather Good News subscribers!

Bill Gathergood, owner and content creator of *Gather Good News* has been donating all the subscription fees to SVDP since 2020. Since 2020 Bill has donated his subscription fees of \$5,082. Thank you Bill!

DIOCESE OF KNOXVILLE SPECIAL FRIENDS SENSORY-FRIENDLY MASS



The graphic features a light background with large, stylized letters 'S', 'F', and 'M' in yellow and blue. At the top right is a circular logo for the Diocese of Knoxville Special Friends. The main text is in blue, with 'SENSORY-FRIENDLY' in an arch, 'MASS' in a bold font, and 'REGISTRATION' in a larger bold font. Below this is a QR code and a line of text.

**SENSORY-FRIENDLY
MASS
REGISTRATION**

Join the Diocese of Knoxville Special Friends for a sensory-friendly Mass celebration on **Saturday, July 25th!**



Scan the QR code or visit the diocesan website to register by Saturday, July 18th.

We have a new ministry in our diocese called the Diocese of Knoxville Special Friends. This ministry is headed up by eight core members. It is dedicated to providing support and resources to our brothers and sisters with special needs and their caregivers throughout the diocese.

One of the missions we have taken on is ensuring that our people with special needs have accessibility to participate more fully in the celebration of the Sacraments. As such, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we have organized a monthly celebration of Sensory-friendly Masses to take place on the last Saturday of every month at Knoxville Catholic High School. Our Inaugural Sensory-friendly Mass will take place on Saturday, July 25th, at 4 pm in Trinity Chapel at Knoxville Catholic High School.

Registration for our first Sensory-friendly Mass is due by July 18th. Please scan the QR code to the left or visit <https://www.dioknox.org/events/sensory-friendly-mass> to register.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Sarah Warner Sperl, Assistant Director Office of Christian Formation: ssperl@dioknox.org ; 865-584-3307



805 S. Northshore Drive Knoxville, TN 37919



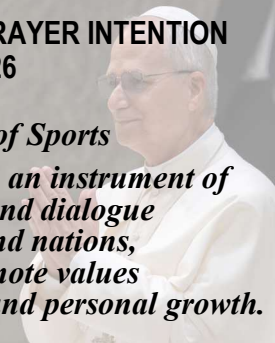
ST. FRANCIS WORDS OF WISDOM JUBILEE YEAR 2026

“ *Let all the brothers, however,
preach by their deeds.* ”

- 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
7/9/26	The Great Commission Parish St. Thomas the Apostle Church Lenoir City, TN 9:00 AM—2:00 PM	Online: Scan QR code in Shea Hall E-Mail: celeste@sthomasc.com Phone: 865-986-9885 ext. 115
7/25/26	Sensory Friendly Mass Knoxville Catholic High School 4:00 PM	Online: https://www.dioknox.org/events/sensory-friendly-mass E-Mail: SSperl@dioknox.org Phone: 865-584-3307
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
8/15/26	Ministries Day All Saints Church, Knoxville	Online: https://dioknox.org/events/ministries-day-2026 E-Mail: TBA Phone: TBA
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

