



JUNE 28, 2026 13TH 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) 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 & GROUNDSIlene Rainwater
DEACONDc. Jim Schmall	FACILITIESDavid Girard
OFFICE MANAGERSKatrina Allocco & Lesa Schmall	SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITEJoAnne Romer-Aylward
BOOKKEEPERKathleen Halligan	PASTORAL CARESuzie Fay
LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTORJoAnne Romer-Aylward	ST. CLARE GIFT SHOPCamilla Sorrell
DIR. OF RELIGIOUS ED.Julie Dew	COLUMBARIUMBob 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.

ANOIDING 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 sfabulletin7717@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	6/29	8:30 AM	Communion Service
Tue	6/30	8:30 AM	Communion Service
Wed	7/1		NO MORNING MASS
Thu	7/2	8:30 AM	Communion Service
Fri	7/3	8:30 AM	Communion Service
Sat	7/4	4:00 PM	Judas Thaddeus, Vo Van Thief ⁺
Sun	7/5	9:00 AM	Elizabeth-Isave Dang Thi Sinh ⁺

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 Dc. Jim Schmall given by Lesa Schmall. 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!



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST



*“The Eucharist
is the sacrament
of the presence of Christ,
who gives Himself to us
because He loves us.”*

*Pope St. John Paul II
(1920-2005)*

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	6/29	9:00 AM	Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue	6/30		
Wed	7/1		
Thu	7/2		
Fri	7/3	9:00 AM	First Friday Adoration
Sat	7/4	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	7/5	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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



LOVE GOD ABOVE ALL

Last Sunday, Matthew's gospel talked about the persecutions Christians have to endure in order to follow Christ. This Sunday, he is telling us about one idea that would seem contradictory in our family relationships. This is one of the most surprising and disappointing passages in Matthew's gospel. Jesus is trying to explain to his disciples the contradiction that his message provokes. Jesus tells that among the many that reject God, Jesus, and his church, could be members of our own families. (I come from a Catholic family, but when I took the decision to go to the seminary some of my siblings thought I was sick).

In fact, when faith is lived by all in the family, it becomes the fount of unity, peace, harmony, and love. But it also can be the source of contradiction, division, opposition, and even persecution.

Jesus clearly says: "My mother and my brothers are those who listen to the Word of God, and act on it." It means that God's words unite us as brothers and sisters, but those who resist following his words divide themselves from those who follow him.

"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me": With these words Jesus indicates that love of God must be above all creatures... even our beloved ones. We must love God more than our parents, our children, and ourselves.

It doesn't mean we must not love our families. It would be contrary to God's law. But this is what the first Commandment calls us for: "Love God above all things." However, God wants us to love our families as he loves us.

Jesus goes even further: "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Why do we find this phrase contradictory? Because we miss the real meaning of life, let us remember that true life is life eternal; life after this passing, short, ephemeral life we live in this earth. Therefore, when Jesus says: "Whoever finds his life will lose it." He refers to whatever we think is most important in this passing life on earth. That includes attachment to creatures, things, money, ideas, etc. Is this an easy task to do? No, it takes sacrifices and denials. That is why Jesus is talking about "taking your cross and follow him." And that cross means death.

That death, to which St. Paul refers in the letter to the Romans, is not necessarily physical death. It is death to sin, to our own self, to our desires, to our inclinations.

This is what holiness is all about: it consists of the continuous dying to oneself to allow God to live in us. To do God's will, not ours.

Today's first reading from the Book of Kings give us a beautiful example of dependence on God's will. The infertile couple who took care of Elisha seemed to accept their situation. As a result, through the prophet Elisha, God sent them a great gift, a child.

If we realize that God's plan for us is the perfect one to make us holy, it would be easier for us to grasp and to put into practice all the things that the Lord demands of us in today's liturgy. Let us remember and reflect on them, asking the Lord for the grace to act on them:

"lose life" ...

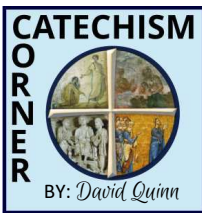
"die to sin" ...

"take up your cross" ...

"die with Jesus" ...

"love God above all things" ...

God bless you.



THE MISSING BOOKS – 1 MACCABEES

1 Maccabees is an interesting book in the Catholic Bible that is missing from the Protestant Bibles. It is a combination of theological scripture and historical events. It is set in a time when the Greeks ruled over the former Kingdom of Judea. The Greeks were trying to reduce the impact of Judaism in the area by encouraging them to adopt the Greek culture. The Greeks built gymnasiums near the temple of Jerusalem, with opportunities to train and compete for awards.

To try to break the Jews will, the Greeks began doing activities in the temple to desecrate the altar. Some Jews started to revolt but the Greeks came down hard on the citizens of Jerusalem. Some families escaped to the mountains and wilderness to prevent all the Jews from being destroyed.

One father, Mattathias, and his five sons decided they could not just try to wait things out anymore. They formed a band of warriors and attacked some of the vulnerable Greek soldiers. They started having some success but Mattathias died in battle.

His son, Judas Maccabaeus, took the lead of the warriors. He started to target more strategic military divisions with great success. The Greeks decided to attack but Maccabeus and his warriors prayed for the Lord to help them and they defeated the attackers. This happened a second time against an even larger Greek division.

Maccabeus decided it was time to restore the sanctuary in the temple, removing the desecrated altar and building a new altar. The altar was sanctified and the people had an eight-day festival to celebrate the restoration of the temple's sanctuary. Some credit this event as the beginning of the celebration of Hanukkah (others reference 2 Maccabees).

When the Greek army started to attack smaller cities outside of Jerusalem, Maccabeus divided up his growing army into three groups. Two attacked the Greek armies while the third remained in Jerusalem to defend the city and temple. The two armies had such great success that the third group decided to try and get their own success story; however, they lost. The other two armies came back and avenged the third group.

Rome was starting to grow in power so Maccabeus made a treaty with Rome to work together to defeat the Greeks. In fear, the local Greek army attacks again and Maccabeus is killed. His brother Jonathan takes over. Jonathan struggled at first and some of his warriors started to abandon him. Jonathan tore his cloak, covered himself in ash, and led the people in prayer. Jonathan started to have success. He confirmed Rome's alliance with the Jews.

The Greeks tricked Jonathan with an offer of peace and kidnap him. His brother Simon takes over. The Greeks ransom Jonathan to Simon but after Simon pays the ransom, the Greeks kill Jonathan anyway. Simon decides to retire and turns over the army to his son John. However, Simon is still leading the new Kingdom of Judah and working agreements with other nations. Just when it seems the biggest enemy of the kingdom is about to be eliminated, another army threatens to take Jerusalem unless Simon pays a ransom.

Simon tries to negotiate with another nation and is invited to a special banquet. He takes all his sons but John. Simon and his sons are ambushed and killed. John attacks in revenge and succeeds. This is quite the journey to reestablish the Kingdom of Judah right before Rome takes over the area.



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!

JULY 4 & 5 SECOND COLLECTION - MAINTENANCE FUND



Your donations made to this fund will help pay for the rising cost of maintaining our aging buildings and to continue with preventative maintenance. This would not be possible without your generous contributions to the Maintenance Fund! Thank you for your support!

Visitors to our beautiful little church on the Little River frequently ask where their donation would be of the most use. We are very thankful for our visitor's financial contributions, especially during our lean winter months when tourism typically declines. This Maintenance Fund would be a great choice for making your donation!

To contribute to this fund, please place your pre-printed envelope in the **second** collection basket the weekend of July 4th and 5th. If you do not have a pre-printed envelope, you may place cash or check in the **second** collection basket.

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH.

If you choose to mail in your donation, please mark on the envelope or check that it is for the "Maintenance" Fund and send it to:

St. Francis of Assisi Church (Maintenance Fund Contribution)
7717 River Rd. Townsend, TN 37882



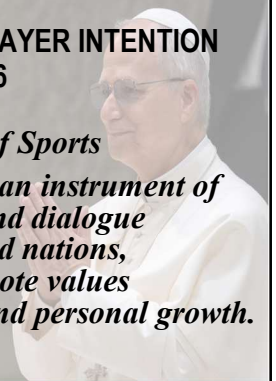
ST. FRANCIS WORDS OF WISDOM JUBILEE YEAR 2026

“ *All I want to know
is Christ
and the power flowing
from His Resurrection!* ”

- 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.*





THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel hear Jesus tell us: "Whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple. Amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward." This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to "acknowledge the goodness of the Father" by assisting local families in providing them with food and assistance with utility and rent bills.

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 JULY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"



Image by favpng.com



Image 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



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



*The cross, taken up hesitantly, is crushing;
taken smilingly, by free will, and with love,
it will carry you much more than you will carry it.*



*- Fr. Jean D'Elbee
The Catholic Woodworker*

DIOCESE OF KNOXVILLE SPECIAL FRIENDS SENSORY-FRIENDLY MASS

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026

4:00 PM

**SENSORY-FRIENDLY
MASS**



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 on the flyer in Shea Hall 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.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION - 7/3/26



*"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.

HEALING MINISTRY AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH



Our healing ministry here at St. Francis of Assisi complements our First Friday of the Month Mass and Adoration.

The healing service is offered concurrently with adoration. Healing ministers are available in Shea Hall and the sacristy while Adoration is available in the church. When

you would like Healing Prayers after the 1st Friday Mass, please come into Shea Hall and a prayer minister will pray for you individually in the Sacristy.

Our Healing Ministry is made up of lay ministers who have been trained to pray for your needs and healing. During our time with you, you will be advised that this is NOT a Sacrament (such as Anointing of the Sick). You will be asked for permission to lay hands on your shoulders while being prayed for and you will be offered Holy Water to use for blessing yourself and then faithfully receive our healing prayers. Healing prayers will be for emotional, physical and/or spiritual healing.

If you would like to be trained to be a part of the healing team, please call Darlene Leitz at 574-238-1705 or email darby321@comcast.net for more information.

*"Heal me, Lord, that I may be healed;
save me, that I may be saved,
for you are my praise." (Jeremiah 17:14)*

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
7/9/26	The Great Commission Parish St. Thomas the Apostle Church Lenoir City, TN (9AM - 2PM)	Online: Scan QR code in Shea Hall E-Mail: celeste@sthomaslc.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

