



JULY 12, 2026 15TH 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 7/13 8:30 AM Allison Rodriguez
Tue 7/14 8:30 AM Ralph Peychal [†]
Wed 7/15 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 7/16 8:30 AM Maria Rodriguez
Fri 7/17 8:30 AM Marcela Rodriguez
Sat 7/18 4:00 PM Sonja Herrmann [†]
Sun 7/19 9:00 AM Shelly Cato & Denver & Helena Thomas

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.

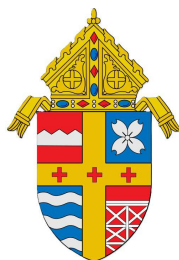


PRAYER REQUESTS: (Homebound, sick or recovering parishioners, friends and relatives): Amy Frink, Pat Sanders, Doreen Mancuso, Claire Cheadle, Paul Fain, Joyce Fain, Julie Schirack, Marcus Bolte, John & Maria Bermudes, Michael Slater, Marion McCaughey, Sue Corsini, Teresa Williams, Jeffrey Garrison, Ann 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: 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!



DIOCESAN JOB OPENING

The Diocese of Knoxville is seeking a Software Implementation Coordinator as the primary guide, partner, and champion for parishes transitioning to Ministry Platform. This role will build relationships, understand unique ministry goals, and guide parish staff through operational changes. The Software Implementation Coordinator will be a trusted advisor, helping ministries leverage technology to better shepherd their congregations and streamline daily operations. The role ensures delivery of a seamless experience for staff and users. This position is a 2-3-year contract position. Please visit the Diocese of Knoxville website at <https://dioknox.org/> employment for a full job description. Submit resumes to Maura Lentz, HR Director at mlentz@dioknox.org.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	7/13	9:00 AM	Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue	7/14		
Wed	7/15		
Thu	7/16	12:00 PM	WEST Mtg. - Shea Hall
Fri	7/17		
Sat	7/18	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	7/19	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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



LET THE SEED OF GRACE GROW IN YOUR HEART

Every farmer and gardener knows that good soil is broken soil: soil that is filled and turned to break through the cold winter hardness, soil that is cracked open to absorb the spring rain, soil in which seeds can take root and blossom in the rich nutrients of the dark, wet earth. Each of us in our own way, is “broken soil” plowed and turned on in all kinds of ways. We always feel that our “brokenness” is something that diminishes us, that makes trust and engagement difficult, that makes us feel unlovable or incapable of loving – but if we embrace the faith and trust of the gospel sower, our broken-

ness becomes the very means through which the seed of God’s love takes root and grows and is harvested in the midst of family, friends, community, and church.

God invites us to embrace such “broken soil” faith: to trust and believe that our simplest acts of kindness and forgiveness, our humblest offers of help to anyone in need, or giving of our time to listen to the plight of another soul, may be the seeds that fall on “rich soil” and yield abundant harvest.

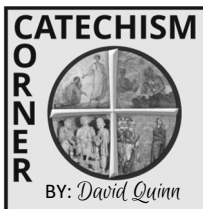
In the Palestine of Jesus’ day, sowing was done before the plowing. Seed was not carefully or precisely placed in the ground. The farmer simply scattered the seed in all directions, knowing that even though much would be wasted, enough would be sown in good earth to ensure a harvest. The parable of the harvest (which appears in all three Synoptic Gospels) teaches us that the seeds fruitfulness (God’s Word) depends on the soil’s openness (the willingness of the human heart to embrace it).

Jesus’ message for us in today’s parable is to know first that the kingdom of heaven is not an entitlement (as a lot of people these days assume it is). Just because the seed of grace has been planted in our hearts, if we do nothing with it, it will die. If it lives in us, it will grow. We know that some of the growth, such as growing physically, just happens automatically as we grow older. Other kinds of growth require intentional effort on our part (such as growing in enough knowledge to get a degree or growing in certain skills, like athletic, artistic, etc).

Growing in God’s grace is like the second kind of growth. It is intentional on our part. It is not accidental. It involves making a choice that Jesus is more important to us than anything or anyone else. It also involves patience as we wait for the fulness of the kingdom. Just as God has given us the sun and the rain to make the seed grow, so if we put forth the effort spiritually, God will supply the means necessary to produce an extraordinarily abundant harvest in our lives. Investing our lives in him will give us a fantastic return in our investment (30, 60, or 100 fold).

Jesus challenges us in the parable of the sower to realize that we are both sower and seed. We are called to sow seeds of encouragement, hope, joy, and reconciliation, regardless of the “ground” on which they are scattered, and to mirror a seed’s total giving of self and become the harvest of gospel justice and mercy.





THE MISSING BOOKS – 2 MACCABEES

Continuing our series on books not in Protestant Bibles, today we will cover 2 Maccabees. Don't think of 2 Maccabees as the sequel to 1 Maccabees. It's almost like a movie remake you see in the theaters nowadays, except that this book is just as good as the original.

While 1 Maccabees was originally written in Hebrew before being translated to Greek, 2 Maccabees was written in Greek. The two books were written by two different authors with different perspectives of the events that led to the re-establishment of the Judean kingdom.

The author for 1 Maccabees was writing primarily from a historical perspective and emphasized the battles.

The author of 2 Maccabees was writing from a more theological perspective, trying to inspire the Jewish followers in exile to continue their faith regardless of their hardships.

The book starts by emphasizing to the Jews in exile in Egypt that they need to celebrate the Festival of Booths. It also tells them of the miracle of the altar flame that was taken into hiding when Jerusalem fell. When they returned to find the flame, all they found was some sort of sludge. They took this sludge to the newly consecrated altar, added wood to it, and the flame relit. This is part of the origin of Hannukah. It is also the first of many amazing stories in this book.

The local ruler of Jerusalem was becoming jealous of the high priest at the temple, so he reported to the governor of the region that the temple treasury was vast in worth. The governor told the king who wanted the treasury taken for his own. He sent someone, Heliodorus, to gather the treasury. When Heliodorus arrived, the people explained that the treasury was for the widows and orphans. Heliodorus didn't care and entered the temple. The people prayed for the temple to be protected. Suddenly, a horse appeared and trampled Heliodorus. He was then attacked and flogged by two angels. The high priest healed Heliodorus and when Heliodorus reported what happened to the king, he told the king to only send his enemies if he insisted on trying to get the temple treasury.

The book then becomes like a soap opera, with various people trying to take over the high priest job and plotting to kill whoever was high priest. No one could trust anyone because whoever was involved in the overthrow of the high priest would then plot to kill the person they initially supported. Everyone was power hungry. Fearing Jerusalem was in revolt, the Greeks put a cruel overseer in place who tortured the Jews. He tried to get the Jews to renounce their faith by getting them to eat pork, to bow to the ruler, or to take part of Greek festivals for their gods. One old man, Eleazar, refused to eat their meat despite his friends telling him he could pretend to eat it, spit it out, and eat the right food. Eleazar said he would rather die than do unholy acts. He was led off to be tortured but before dying, he said that he had joy in his heart despite all the pain because he was earning his heavenly reward.

Seven brothers and their mother were tortured and killed for refusing to eat pork. Each brother talked about receiving everlasting life after their human life would end. For the last brother, the king offered him great riches and great places of honor. The king asked the mother to convince



Continued on next page

her last son to take his offer but she implored her son to stay faithful to God. Both were killed.

A new general, Lysius, gathers a large army to take Judea. When he attacks a stronghold in Judea, the Jews pray for God's assistance with their army. A bright white angel warrior appears ahead of them and they defeat Lysius.

While the Jews lived in peace with the different kings, there were still some locals that intended to do away with the Jews. They disguised their intentions by inviting them on a boat ride and drowned over two hundred Jews. Judas Maccabaeus heard about this and attacked their two cities. Judas took one break from battle to return to Jerusalem for the Feast of Weeks, Pentecost. He came upon one group of slain Jews who were wearing unholy stones under their clothes. Judas offered prayers for the repose of their souls, affirming the need to pray for the dead and serving as the foundation of the Catholic belief in Purgatory.

A few more battles are called out but each time, the people prayed for help and God helped them to win. This remarkable book really is an inspiration for relying on your faith for perseverance, especially in times of trial.



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!



DIGITAL BULLETINS

Occasionally, we run out of paper bulletins after our weekend Masses and the last two weekends we have run into printing problems that have prevented us from handing out the normal amount of bulletins after weekend Masses. If we have run out of bulletins (or haven't been able to print them), you can always access our bulletins online at our website: **StFrancisTownsend.org**. Simply click on the "Bulletin" icon/button on our website's home page and then select the week you wish to view. Additionally, you may choose to receive the weekly bulletin as an e-mail attachment simply by sending an e-mail with "E-Bulletin" in the subject line to: **SFABulletin7717@gmail.com**.



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES QUARTERLY SIGN-UPS FOR AUGUST, SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

It is time for Liturgical Ministries signup! The signup sheets are on the counter (or the tables) in Shea Hall. Please take a few minutes after Mass this weekend and next to sign up for your ministry/ministries.

If you would like more information about our Liturgical Ministries, please check out our website, the bulletin board in Shea Hall or contact one of our ministry heads:

Lectors	Martha Frink	865-556-4684	marthafrink00@gmail.com
EMHC*	Karen Messenger	225-572-9400	komessenger@gmail.com
Ushers	Paul Czerniewski	847-877-7347	paul.czerniewski@gmail.com
Sacristans	Kathy Meyerkord	630-698-5563	kmmeyerkord@gmail.com
Altar Servers	Dan Meyerkord	708-846-4144	dkam27@sbcglobal.net

* Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

DIOCESE OF KNOXVILLE SPECIAL FRIENDS SENSORY-FRIENDLY MASS

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026

4:00 PM

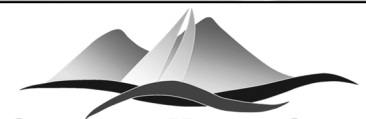
**SENSORY-FRIENDLY
MASS**



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.



CONCORD YACHT CLUB

11600 South Northshore Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37922
concordyachtclub.org

**PARISH PICNIC
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2026
2:30 - 7:30**

- The Parish will provide burgers, hot dogs, buns, and condiments
- Parishioners, please BYO drinks and a side dish to share (Sign up in Shea Hall)
- Please BYO lawn chairs (picnic benches available in the pavilion)
- Both the indoor air-conditioned Clubhouse and the outdoor Pavilion are reserved for our use
- Buffet dinner will begin at 3:00 PM

Please sign up in Shea Hall so we know how many to plan for

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST



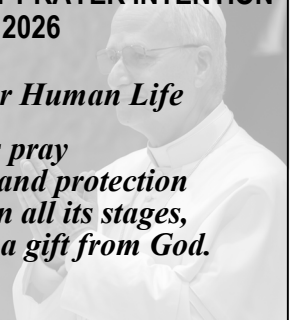
*"From the Eucharist
comes strength
to live the Christian life
and zeal
to share that life with others"*

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

POPE LEO'S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION JULY 2026

For Respect for Human Life

*Let us pray
for the respect and protection
of human life in all its stages,
recognizing it as a gift from God.*





THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel, we hear the story of the sower and we know that "some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirty fold." This week by putting a gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, know that together they will produce fruit a hundred fold.

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

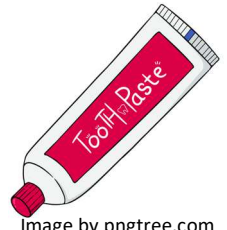


Image by pngtree.com

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.



WELCOMING EVENTS & SOCIAL TEAM MEETING

Thursday, July 16, 2026

NOON in Shea Hall

If you are a member of this parish, you are automatically a member of this team! 😊

Please come and join in the Fall and Winter planning activities for our parish! A light lunch will be served.



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



*As seed, our job is to get busy growing.
As farmers, our job is to get busy sowing.*



- Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
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

SAINTS BE PRAISED!

July 13 St. Henry
 July 14 St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
 July 15 St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
 July 16 Our Lady of Mount Carmel
 July 18 St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest



VENEZUELA DISASTER RELIEF

On June 24, two powerful earthquakes struck parts of Venezuela, leaving thousands dead and tens of thousands displaced from their homes. In response to this humanitarian tragedy, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) immediately began providing financial assistance through its disaster relief fund, which has accumulated resources from prior disaster collections that were not fully utilized. These funds are being directed to support the relief efforts of Catholic Relief Services, whose personnel are already serving in the affected areas.

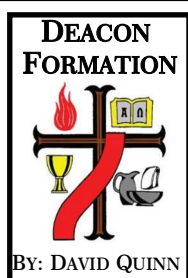
Because assistance is already being provided through the USCCB's disaster relief fund, a special collection for Venezuela will not be taken up at this time. However, those who wish to support the ongoing relief and recovery efforts are encouraged to make a donation directly to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) through their website: Catholic Relief Services (www.crs.org). Thank you, everyone! God bless you and all you do!



PARISH CHARITY (GREEN ENVELOPE) UPDATE

It's been a while since we've mentioned the green envelopes included in your envelope packets. The parish is still supporting the Pregnancy Center of East Tennessee which is under the administration of the Catholic Charities of East Tennessee (CCETN). In addition to assisting women through their pregnancies, CCETN now has a program which provides Adoption Services to assist both prospective parents and pregnant women.

Through your generous "Green Envelope" contributions, St. Francis of Assisi Church recently sent **\$11,135.75** to the CCETN Pregnancy Help Center. This amount was made possible solely by the generosity of our parishioners using the Parish Charity envelopes. Thank you for your generous and loving support to this program.



BECOMING A DEACON – SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

We spent three weekends on the Synoptic Gospels: Mark, Matthew, and Luke. They have so much material in common that biblical scholars propose that there is an unattributed source known as Q. Any unique stories or sayings that each Gospel writer has aside from Q is attributed to them.

The other differences in their approaches pretty much depend on who their audience is and what the main message is that they want to communicate. St. Mark emphasizes the Messianic Secret, where Jesus does not want people to tell others He is the Messiah until He says it is okay. St. Matthew wants to convince Jews that Jesus was the Messiah based on prophecy. St. Luke wrote to Theophilus, who commissioned Luke to write on the life of Jesus.



ST. FRANCIS WORDS OF WISDOM JUBILEE YEAR 2026



Your deeds may be the only sermon some persons hear today.

*- St. Francis of Assisi
1181 - 1226*





GOODBYE MARSELLA, UNTIL NEXT YEAR!

It's 6:00 AM, the suitcases are loaded and as our transport bus starts out of town we hear the church bells ring and Ave Maria playing one last time. Our goodbyes have been said and with heavy but happy hearts we begin our journey back home. We carry with us wonderful memories of all the children we spent three days with focusing on the Rosary, doing crafts, games, and Gospel stories. Our trip to the nursing home was uplifting as the residents reached for our hands and gave us big beautiful smiles. There is no way to describe the prayers of thanks we received as we distributed 250 food bags. Our Mission has been fruitful, spiritual, and successful only because of your generous donations and many prayers. May God bless us all, and may our One Heart Colombia Mission continue to fulfill its purpose in the future!

