



JULY 19, 2026 16TH 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.

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 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 7/20 8:30 AM Rocio Rodriguez
Tue 7/21 8:30 AM Herma Peychal †
Wed 7/22 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 7/23 8:30 AM Normand Messier †
Fri 7/24 8:30 AM Mayela Rodriguez
Sat 7/25 4:00 PM Holy Souls in Purgatory
Sun 7/26 9:00 AM Lucille Weiland †

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.

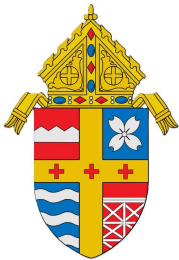


PRAYER REQUESTS: (Homebound, sick or recovering parishioners, friends and relatives): Amy Frink, Doreen Mancuso, Claire Cheadle, Paul Fain, Joyce Fain, Julie Schirack, Marcus Bolte, John & Maria Bermudes, Michael Slater, Marion McCaughey, Sue Corsini, Teresa Williams, Jeffrey Garrison, Ann Day, Ed Welsh,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

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 7/20	9:00 AM	Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue 7/21		
Wed 7/22		
Thu 7/23		
Fri 7/24		
Sat 7/25	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun 7/26	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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



WEEDS AND WHEAT: TEACHING US HOW TO LIVE IN A DIFFICULT WORLD

Weeds, mustard seeds, and yeast are the central images in today's gospel from Matthew. Yes, there are a great many "weeds" growing around and among us - but truth be told, we can be real "weeds" ourselves. The gospel challenges us to recognize our own "weed-like" behavior and respond to Jesus' call to become "wheat" that becomes bread for all, wheat that feeds and supports others, wheat that selflessly gives itself for the common harvest.

Our first reading today could be difficult to follow. It is from the Book of Wisdom, a book written 100 years before Christ. At that time the Jews were being persecuted for their faith.

Many Jews were giving up their belief in God and going to the pagan ways. The author of this book was struggling with the question: "Why is God allowing this evil to go on? His conclusion is that God's power is not directed toward evil people, but it shows itself in God's patience, wanting people to repent and allowing them time to do so. This then prepares us for the gospel, which also deals with the problem of evil.

The parable of the weeds among the wheat provides much food for thought on the Christian journey. We learn that we must take the good with the bad that arises in life. The farmer tells his servants not to pull the weeds (that is, not to remove the difficulties and pains of life), for if they do, then the life they have might be lost as well. That might seem odd to us; it does not seem to connect with the idea of a loving and compassionate God. However, we must be able to see that the hurdles and challenges from life are what many times strengthen us and, in the process, teach us to live in our sometimes difficult world.

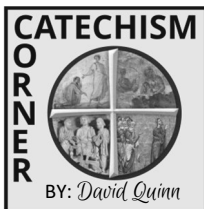
The Christian life is not always easy. Pain and suffering, obstacles and hurdles, challenges and difficulties are part of life. These are the weeds of our existence, and Jesus tells us that if they are removed, we might die, for we will not be able to grow as we should.

We live in a very challenging world, and I believe most of us would be more than happy if a few of the weeds of our lives were removed. In faith, however, we know that God's timing is perfect. We may long for the day when evil is completely destroyed, but we know that God in his wisdom has a plan for his kingdom and the harvest. For now, it would be premature to uproot the dandelion. At the end of time, however, when the new heaven and the new earth have come, every hint of sin and evil will be wiped away. In the meantime, we must endure the evil that is in the world. Even Jesus underwent temptation by Satan (Matthew 4: 1-11).

The Father permits us to be tempted too, and yet our victory lies with Jesus. With the eyes of faith, we must learn to detest the weeds among the wheat. We must resist evil wherever we see it and stand up for righteousness. On this, we can depend on God's help, relying on the truth of his word, the power of his love, and his grace and strength. As the Father sent angels to minister to Jesus in the desert after his confrontation with the devil (4:11), we too, can count on our Father to care for us.

Someday the weeds and the wheat will be separated. The weeds will be burned, while the wheat will be gathered together. At this final judgement, evil will be defeated, and the righteous "will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father" (13:43).





THE MISSING BOOKS – WISDOM

As we continue our series on books of the Catholic Bible that are not in the Protestant Bibles, we will next examine the Book of Wisdom. It is often joked that the difference between the Catholic Bible and Protestant Bibles is that we have wisdom in our Bible. Both versions of the Bible contain wisdom but the Catholic Bible has the Book of Wisdom.

The traditional name of the book is the Book of the Wisdom of Solomon. This is actually a pretty bold statement as King Solomon died about 700-800 years before this book was written. What made the book confusing at first to early Christians is that at times the author speaks as if he is King Solomon. Further analysis though showed that there was no way this book was written by Solomon himself, so the author is taking “poetic license.”

Like other deuterocanonical books, this one was written in Greek and the author is unknown. It is believed that the author was an Egyptian Jew and part of a community undergoing persecution. The author was likely trying to reflect what happens when individuals apply the wisdom Solomon talked about to their lives so they can endure the persecution.

The book starts with an emphasis on seeking righteousness. It even talks about how some righteous people sometimes are taken early to avoid allowing them to experience corruption. The wicked may not be punished immediately but will suffer greater punishment in the afterlife. This is especially true of the mighty rulers who conduct wicked acts.

The book then speaks in the voice of Solomon, saying how he pursued wisdom from his youth. He confesses that there was nothing extraordinary about himself but that he asked God for wisdom and received it. Solomon knew that wisdom is needed to lead the people of Israel.

The book then describes how wisdom accompanied the people of Israel from Adam through Moses, though these leaders of Israel are not always called out by name. Wisdom was never denied the people of Israel but they did often ignore wisdom.

Idolatry is a major issue within this book. Idols are considered an abomination to God. The worship of idols shows a clear misunderstanding of God and that wicked behavior is to be stopped as soon as it is pointed out. God sends punishments, like plagues of insects, to people committing idolatry.

A key aspect of the book is that wisdom is personified as a female. This is because of the beauty of wisdom and the desire to be married to wisdom.



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.



NATIONAL COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN AFRICA

A second collection will be taken up on July 25th and 26th in support of the Pastoral Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa. This National Collection supports a wide range of essential and unique pastoral projects that build the capacity of the rapidly growing Church in Africa, so rich with faith, hope, and immense need. The Solidarity Fund supports essential pastoral projects throughout this vast continent that includes outreach programs, schools, evangelization, and education of clergy and lay ministers. Mindful of the priests and religious from Africa who assist us so unselfishly here in the Diocese of Knoxville, please show your appreciation with your generous support of this appeal for the Church in Africa.



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!

eBulletin

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

Sign up in Shea Hall so we know how many to plan for !

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST



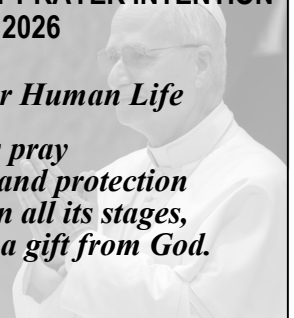
*"God in his omnipotence
could not give more,
in his wisdom he knew not
how to give more,
in his riches he had not more to
give, than the Eucharist.*

*St. Augustine
(354 - 430 AD)*

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

Hearing this Gospel, we can trust that God knows our love and good deeds, and that he will mercifully gather us into his kingdom. This week, please say a special prayer each day for the poor and forgotten in our parish.

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"



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Image by pngtree.com



PARISH CHARITY (GREEN ENVELOPE) UPDATE

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.

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.



ST. FRANCIS WORDS OF WISDOM JUBILEE YEAR 2026



*Where there is charity and wisdom,
there is neither fear nor ignorance.*



*St. Francis of Assisi
1181 - 1226*



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



*The Bible tells us to love our neighbors,
and also to love our enemies;
probably because they are generally the same people.*



- G.K. Chesterton

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 20 St. Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr
 July 21 St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church
 July 22 St. Mary Magdalene
 July 23 St. Bridget, Religious
 July 24 St. Sharbel Makhlof, Priest
 July 25 St. James, Apostle