



JULY 26, 2026 17TH 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 7/27 8:30 AM Cathy Peychal
Tue 7/28 8:30 AM Dimple Anderson +
Wed 7/29 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 7/30 8:30 AM Victoria Maradiaga
Fri 7/31 8:30 AM Esmeralda Rodriguez
Sat 8/1 4:00 PM Fr. Antonio (from SVdP)
Sun 8/2 9:00 AM Patrick Sanders +

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: *The sanctuary flowers are placed in memory of Pat Sanders, given by his daughter-in-law, Lisa Parrot.* 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 memory of Pat Sanders given by his daughter-in-law Lisa Parrot.* 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!



ST. FRANCIS WORDS OF WISDOM
JUBILEE YEAR 2026

“We should seek not so much to pray
 but to become prayer.”
St. Francis of Assisi
 1181 - 1226



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP
OPEN
 after weekend Masses
 and by request/appointment
 after daily Mass

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	7/27	9:00 AM	Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue	7/28		
Wed	7/29		
Thu	7/30		
Fri	7/31		
Sat	8/1	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	8/2	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass
		2:00 PM	Parish Picnic



FINDING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN CAN BE MESSY

The search for the gospel treasure, the “pearl of great price” and the net’s catch, begins with understanding the real value of that for which we are searching. Sometimes we’re surprised at the “treasure” we take for granted, the “pearl” that we’ve overlooked. At other times, the “treasure” that we invest so much time and energy to obtain leaves us impoverished; the “pearl” that we move heaven and hearth to possess costs us dearly.

The “treasures” of lasting value are the things of God: the love of family and friends, the support of community, the sense of fulfillment from serving and giving for the sake of others. In order to attain such treasure, we must take the risk of the speculator and “sell off” our own interests, ambitions, and agendas to free ourselves to embrace the lasting values of the compassion, love, and reconciliation of God.

The kingdom of heaven can be found, but it can only be found with great effort and with great discernment. It is like a treasure in a field; when you know it is in the field, you must buy the field, but you must also dig through mounds of dirt to discover it. It is like the pearl of great price that is worth more than our earthly possessions, but it must be harvested with care and patience. It is like a haul of fish that is so valuable that it is worth tearing our nets to haul it in, even if the catch has the good and the bad.

Finding the kingdom of heaven can be messy. If we are seeking the kingdom of heaven, we must tune our vision to discern what is of God and what is not. The gospel “pearl of great price” transcends logic, efficiency, and self-interest. The most important part of finding the “pearl” may be the search itself. As we evaluate the options, we learn the true value of things. We realize the difference between what value we need and want. We understand better not only what works in our lives but how we want our lives to work. Christ challenges us to seek the “pearl of great price” not with a credit card, but with openness of mind and heart to discern the value of God in what we give our all for.

This Sunday, we hear Jesus again teaching us about the kingdom of heaven. The parable about the net thrown in the sea was explained and the first two parables about the treasure and the pearl, are pretty obvious. However, Jesus helps us think more deeply about the idea of a treasure. Jesus is telling us that the kingdom of God and living in God’s grace is of the highest values to us. Going to Mass, prayer, keeping the Commandments, loving God and each other is not just a form of insurance that we will be happy in the next life. It is something that we make part of our lives.

The man who found the treasure was lucky, but the treasure wasn’t legally and fully his until he sacrificed his possessions in order to buy the field. The man who wanted the pearl had to do the same. The kingdom of heaven doesn’t come automatically. We have to invest in it to really possess it, or rather I should say, to have it possess us. The most important thing we have to invest is our time, time to pray and to reflect on the Scriptures, perhaps, even to serve God or the Church with some of our gifts and talents. But it also requires an investment of our will, choosing to guide our lives by Christ’s teachings rather than making up our own rules about what’s good or bad. It even takes an investment of our own finances, since if we value our faith, we will adequately support it.

When this life is over, we will have to leave most of our treasures. But we will take with us our good works and our love for God, and others; these will be our joy for all eternity. A life of holiness and goodness is a treasure that will not fail.



PLEASE
TAKE
ONE



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. Included in the package is a Booklet about our little church and 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!



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FINANCE COUNCIL

Thank you, David Quinn for your 10 years of service on the Finance Council - many of which were spent as Chair of the Council. Your dedication and leadership over the years has been an invaluable asset to our beautiful little church on the river!

Thank you also to Bob Eberhardt who said "yes" to stepping into the role of Finance Council chairperson. Your volunteer heart and financial expertise will carry us through the fiscal year and beyond.

Please, when you see David or Bob, extend your thanks and congratulations - not only for this new "changing of the guard" on the Finance Council, but also for all that they do for St. Francis of Assisi Church, our beautiful little church on the River!

Fr. Antonio Giraldo



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

*"When we receive the Eucharist,
we become living tabernacles.
God has entered our hearts!"*

- CatholicLink.org

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.*



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



*The righteousness of the blameless makes their paths straight,
but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness.*



- Proverbs 11:5

SECOND COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TUITION SUPPORT AUGUST 8 & 9

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND

Growing Saints

Your gift makes it possible

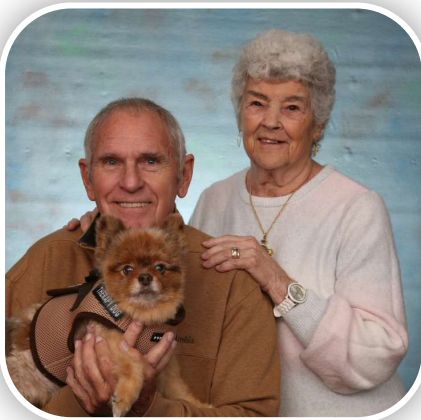
YOUR GIFT HELPS STUDENTS
ACROSS OUR DIOCESE OF EAST
TENNESSEE RECEIVE A CATHOLIC
EDUCATION ROOTED IN FAITH,
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, AND
SERVICE.



www.dioknox.org/schools-collection

A second collection will be taken on August 8 and 9 for Diocesan Catholic School Tuition support. The Catholic schools in our diocese provide spiritual and intellectual growth for nearly 3,600 students in our two high schools and eight elementary schools. During these pandemic years, our Catholic schools outshined all other public and private schools, meeting all the associated challenges while ensuring the quality of our children's education remained the same. With numerous awards, unbeatable graduation rates and a passion to develop the youth of today into the leaders of tomorrow – our Catholic schools not only equip children for the journey of life but, more importantly, help to guide them along their journey to Heaven. In order to help ensure that a Catholic education is within every family's reach, we need your help. Over the past five years, the need for supplemental tuition support has more than doubled. And over this past year, a record of more than \$5.5 million dollars in tuition support was given to assist Catholic families. But with your help, additional children will experience the spiritual and academic advantages of a Catholic school education. Please be generous.

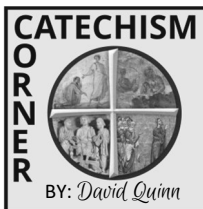
WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!



Our beloved parishioner Pat Sanders (holding Nugget in the photo) passed away on July 8, 2026. Pat, Judy, and their two dogs always attended 9:00 Sunday Mass and sat in the back with the doggie stroller.

On Sunday, August 2, 2026 the 9:00 Mass will be offered for the intention of the repose of Pat's soul. As part of Pat's wishes, no funeral service will be held. In lieu of flowers and in honor of Pat's love of the outdoors, the family invites you to plant a tree in his memory through the Arbor Day Foundation: <https://shop.arborday.org/> commemorative.

Safely Home, Pat 



THE MISSING BOOKS - SIRACH

This Catechism Corner article is the fifth installment of eleven on books in the Catholic Bible that are not in the Protestant Bibles. The book for this week's Corner is the Book of Sirach. Some bibles may refer to it as the Book of Ben Sira or the Book of Ecclesiasticus. Regardless of which name you use, it is the same book attributed to Jesus, son of Eleazar, son of Sira. The original author started writing the book, but the book had to be finished by his grandson.

Unlike most of the other deuterocanonical books, this book was first written in Hebrew but then translated to Greek. Initial copies of the book used for translation to Latin and other languages came from the Greek text because they had lost the original Hebrew text. However, over recent decades, more copies of the Hebrew text that predate the Greek text have been discovered. It was not incorporated into Jewish canon as it was written after the year 200 BC.

Only a handful of books in the Bible begin with a forward or prologue before getting into their primary text. The Book of Sirach is one of them. It explains about who the original author was and how the grandson is finishing the book for him. The grandson acknowledges that there are inaccuracies in events but that the lessons to be learned are the most important feature of the book.

While the book starts by emphasizing the need for wisdom (which is one of the reasons it follows the Book of Wisdom in the Bible), it soon takes on a feeling similar to Proverbs. It becomes a series of wise sayings that a father passes on to his son.

We are to pursue righteousness, trying to be worthy of God's goodness. Goodness is always contrasted with wickedness. There are times when the advice is just sound advice, not about pursuing righteousness. There are verses on not being idle, not drinking, not chasing questionable women, remaining humble, and being a good host at a feast. There are many verses on being careful with whom you associate or from whom you take advice. It also warns multiple times about not lending money.

The book concludes with praises for leaders of Israel, a prayer of reflection, a canticle, and finally a poem to wisdom.



*Those who love learning should
make even greater progress
in living according to the law.
You are urged therefore
to read with good will and attention
- Introduction to Sirach*

DEACON FORMATION



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.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today, we find that the demand of daily Christian living is to spend our life primarily searching for the kingdom of God. This month through your gifts to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul we were able to assist local families by providing them with food from our Neighbors In Need pantry, and financial assistance for utility and rent bills, etc.

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 19th!**

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.



SEE SOMEONE IN NEED? LET US KNOW!

Do you know of any neighbor or another that can use some help? If so, please do not hesitate to refer them to St. Vincent de Paul! We are able to provide food from our Food Pantry and help with some basic financial needs: utility expenses, rent or other bills too.

We serve those that reside in the Townsend, Walland, Wears Valley zip code of 37882, 37862, and Maryville zip codes 37803 & 37804. The St. Vincent de Paul phone number is

865-312-0141

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
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 26 Saints Joachim and Anne
 July 29 Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus
 July 30 St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
 July 31 St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
 August 1 St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church