



AUGUST 2, 2026

18TH 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

PASTOR	Fr. Antonio Giraldo	GARDENS & GROUNDS	Ilene Rainwater
DEACON	Dc. Jim Schmall	FACILITIES	David Girard
OFFICE MANAGERS	Katrina 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	8/3	8:30 AM	Matt Khulman
Tue	8/4	8:30 AM	Peter Malito
Wed	8/5	NO MORNING MASS	
Thu	8/6	8:30 AM	Bosco Allocco
Fri	8/7	8:30 AM	Jerry Sandifer
Sat	8/8	4:00 PM	Jeffrey Hosfeld †
Sun	8/9	9:00 AM	John & Yvonne Peychal

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

“For it is in giving that we receive.”
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	8/3	9:00 AM	Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue	8/4		
Wed	8/5		
Thu	8/6		
Fri	8/7	9:00 AM	First Friday Adoration
Sat	8/8	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	8/9	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass



JESUS: BOTH HUMAN AND FULLY DIVINE

One of the theological concepts of our faith is the understanding that Jesus is both human and fully divine. Today's gospel is an excellent example of this principle. This story of Jesus feeding the multitude is the only miracle found in all the gospels – a point which highlights its importance to the Church. The gospel begins with Jesus' hearing about the death of his cousin John the Baptist. When you become consumed by grief, you may want to escape and be alone with your thoughts. This was no different for Jesus. Jesus and John had known each other from the beginning, so this loss for Jesus was profound. Perhaps Jesus knew he would soon face a similar fate. That's a lot of emotion for anyone to process, so we can empathize with Jesus' desire to go to quiet place to mourn.

Jesus' followers didn't give him much time to grieve. When he disembarked from the boat, they were waiting to hear his words and for him to heal the sick among them. Jesus began healing the sick, but his disciples, his friends, probably recognized his grief, and that might be partly why they encouraged him to dismiss the crowds. The disciples also needed to rest after a long, hard day. It was late and there was not enough food for them all to eat. Jesus had other plans, he wanted the people to stay and told his disciples to just feed them. All the disciples had were five loaves of bread and two fish; that would only give a morsel to all those in attendance. But Jesus had the disciples to bring him the food, and he multiplied the bread and the fish so all those in attendance could eat.

At the beginning, the gospel reminded us of Jesus' humanity, this ending reminds us of his divinity. For the past two weeks, we have heard seven parables of the kingdom of heaven. Jesus didn't just preach about the kingdom, he demonstrated it. He demonstrated it in casting out demons, healing the sick, raising the dead, forgiving sins, and feeding the multitude.

So, when Jesus fed a great crowd in a miraculous way, the people saw this as a sign of God's kingdom and Jesus as the King who would initiate it. The early church retold the story of the multiplication of the loaves using Eucharistic language. They saw the Eucharist as God continuing to feed his people with Jesus' own Body and Blood. Thus, the story of the feeding in this deserted place has actions similar to what Jesus did in the Last Supper: He took, He blessed, and He gave the loaves at the miraculous feeding - and the bread at the Last Supper.

Today, we are reminded of Jesus' humanity – he understood the pain and suffering that comes from profound loss – but we are also reminded of his divinity. He relates to us with his genuine humanity and then fulfills our greatest needs through his divine nature.



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM

“ You pray for the hungry.
Then you feed them.
That's how prayer works. ”

- Pope Francis
1936 - 2025

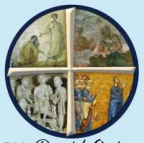
POPE LEO'S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION AUGUST 2026

For Evangelization In the City

*Let us pray that in large cities
often marked by anonymity and loneliness
we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel,
discovering creative paths
to build community.*

CATECHISM

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BY: David Quinn

THE MISSING BOOKS - BARUCH

This week we continue our series on books of the Catholic Bible that are not in the Protestant Bibles with the Book of Baruch. This is a very short book in terms of number of chapters with just six. It can kind of be viewed as the sequel to the book of Jeremiah. Baruch was Jeremiah's scribe.

This book requires the readers to know that at Baruch's time, God had told the people of Israel that they must follow the king of Babylon as part of their punishment for being unfaithful to God. This is not to imply that the king of Babylon was blessed by God. God would punish this king later but for now, the people were to obey him.

Baruch starts by sending money and a request to the people of Jerusalem to purchase supplies for offerings to be made in the name of the king and the king's son. Again, the people know they are being punished so they send offerings.

The people start to suffer even more as a famine hits the land. Some even resort to cannibalism. They have finally had enough suffering and pray to God that they stop being punished for the sins of their ancestors. They want to seek the gift of wisdom through the Law of God and ask for it to be imparted on them.

Then, the nations that conquered Israel started to fall and to be conquered as well. The people of those nations will start to be as miserable as the Jewish people. The Israelites are told to look forward to the restoration of Jerusalem and the temple even as they are being led off into exile. However, the people are warned not to follow the Babylonian gods and to remain faithful to the Lord.

*Jerusalem,
take off your robe
of mourning and
misery; put on the
splendor of glory
from God forever.*

Baruch 5:1

*"If we allow God
to work through them,"
sufferings can make us stronger,
give us a greater appreciation
for the blessings in our lives,
and bring us close to Christ."*

Teresa Tomeo

Walk Softly and Carry a Great Bag



DynamicCatholic.com

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.

**PLEASE
TAKE
ONE**



Welcome, Pilgrims!

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION - 8/7/26

*"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 complements our First Friday of the Month Mass and Adoration.

Healing prayers are 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)*

SECOND COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TUITION SUPPORT AUGUST 8 & 9

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND

Growing Saints

Your gift makes it possible

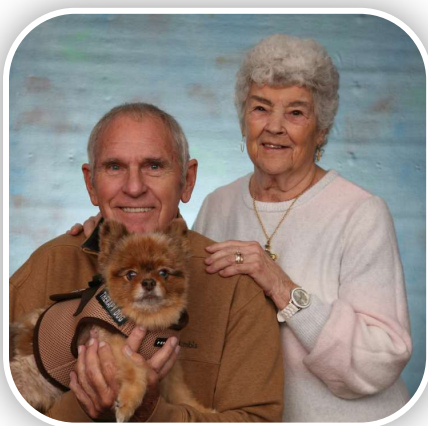
YOUR GIFT HELPS STUDENTS
ACROSS OUR DIOCESE OF EAST
TENNESSEE RECEIVE A CATHOLIC
EDUCATION ROOTED IN FAITH,
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, AND
SERVICE.



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 Teddy 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 SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel, Jesus says: "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves," and taking the five loaves and two fish, he blessed them and gave them to the disciples to feed the crowd. Know that your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to help those living in poverty touches many lives just like the loaves and fishes.

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.

SVdP meets
the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month
at 5:00 PM in the PRC. All are welcome!

Thank You

For your continued support of SVdP!

SVdP AUGUST "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" PASTA AND PASTA SAUCE



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



CCW BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER - AUGUST 8 & 9



Saint Francis of Assisi CCW will be distributing baby bottles the weekend of August 8 /9. We ask that you fill up a baby bottle (or two) with your excess change and return the baby bottle(s) to church the weekends of August 23/23 and August 29/30. If you don't keep change lying around and would prefer to donate to this cause via check, just place your check (payable to Catholic Charities of East Tennessee) inside the baby bottle.

The money collected will help support the Pregnancy Center through Catholic Charities of East Tennessee. The agency offers free pregnancy testing, limited ultrasounds, parenting education, STI testing, and community referrals. Please help support this worthy and very needed aid to women (and young girls) who may not have anywhere else to turn. Questions? Please contact Ilene Rainwater 865-748-1873 (irainwater@hotmail.com).

Thank You for your support!



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

