



AUGUST 16, 2026 20TH 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 8/17 8:30 AM Pat Sanders †
Tue 8/18 8:30 AM Marty Couch †
Wed 8/19 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 8/20 8:30 AM Norman Weiland †
Fri 8/21 8:30 AM Rita Polak †
Sat 8/22 4:00 PM Maren Sibley Bristow †
Sun 8/23 9:00 AM German & Pamela Giraldo

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, John & Maria Bermudes, Michael Slater, Marion McCaughey, Sue Corsini, Teresa Williams, Jeffrey Garrison, Ann Day, Ed Welsh, Dale DuRussel, Robert Schumacher, German Giraldo, Connor Dietrich, Sofia Graziano, Obed Sexton, 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!



ST. FRANCIS WORDS OF WISDOM JUBILEE YEAR 2026

“*Spiritual joy arises from
purity of the heart
and perseverance in 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 8/17 9:00 AM Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue 8/18
Wed 8/19 5:00 PM SVdP - PRC
Thu 8/20
Fri 8/21
Sat 8/22 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
Sun 8/23 9:00 AM Sunday Mass



PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

So, how was your summer? Mine took a decidedly awkward turn back in May when I fell in my own driveway and broke my leg in three places! Not how I wanted to spend my summer! But here I am three months later walking on my own two feet. I'm doing physical therapy and getting stronger every day. Thank you all for your thoughts, prayers, visits, and food while I was down. And a special thanks to my wife who took real good care of me.

While I was down the last three months, I had a lot of free time on my hands. If there is a silver lining to all of this, it's that I was able to watch Spain win the World Cup. But Deacon, what about the U.S. team? I was rooting for them too, and they made a good showing. But I have a special place in my heart for Spain. Why Spain? I was born there. And, as such, as I was preparing this homily I felt real empathy for the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel.

She is not among the chosen people of Israel; she stands, at least outwardly, beyond the familiar boundaries of covenant, custom, and religious belonging. Yet she approaches the Lord with reverence, humility, and confidence that will not be discouraged. It is from a place of love and desperation that the Canaanite woman comes to Jesus and cries out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon."

At first, this passage may trouble us. Jesus remains silent. The disciples ask Him to send her away. Then He speaks of His mission to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" and uses the image of the children's bread. Yet this exchange does not show indifference in the heart of Christ. Instead, it reveals the depth of the woman's faith, so that her perseverance may instruct the disciples and the whole Church.

Her prayer grows simpler and deeper. She first cries out for mercy, then comes forward in homage, and finally says only, "Lord, help me." In those words, we hear the prayer of every heart that has reached the end of its own strength: parents anxious for their children, families weighed down by illness or division, and all who long for healing, forgiveness, justice, or peace. It is also the prayer of the Church, which knows that apart from the Lord we can do nothing.

The greatness of this woman's faith is not found in religious privilege, social standing, or eloquent speech. It is found in humble trust. She does not presume upon God; she entrusts herself to Him. She is willing to receive even the smallest crumb of mercy, because she knows that what comes from the Lord is sufficient. And Jesus, who sees the truth of her heart, answers with words of extraordinary praise: "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."

This Gospel also announces that the mercy of God is never confined by the narrow limits of human judgment. The disciples see an interruption; Christ reveals a daughter of faith. They see someone outside; Jesus sees a heart open to grace. Here we glimpse the universal scope of salvation: God's blessing, first promised to Israel, is destined to reach all nations. No one who comes to Christ in humility and faith is beyond the reach of His saving love.

This is also a deeply Eucharistic Gospel. The woman speaks of crumbs that fall from the table, and we know that at this altar the Lord gives us not merely crumbs, but His very Body and Blood. In the Eucharist, mercy is not an idea or a distant promise; mercy becomes sacramental, tangible, and personal.

Christ feeds His children with Himself, and every Mass is an invitation to come humbly to the table of grace. And when we have wandered, sinned, or grown weak in faith, the Lord does not send us away.

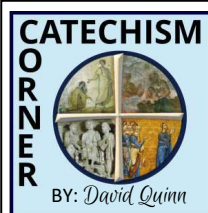


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He draws us back through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where the same mercy that healed the daughter of the Canaanite woman heals the wounds of sin in our own souls. The sacraments are not rewards for the perfect; they are gifts for those who know their need and come to Christ with faith.

For us, this Sunday Gospel is an invitation to persevere in prayer, especially when prayer seems unanswered. Silence from God is not absence. Delay is not rejection. The Lord may allow our faith to be tested, purified, and deepened, not because He lacks compassion, but because He desires to draw us into a more complete trust. Like the Canaanite woman, we are called to remain before Him, to kneel in humility, and to say with confidence, "Lord, help me."

As we come to the altar today, we stand before the same Lord who heard the Canaanite woman's cry. In this Eucharist, Christ gives us the Bread of Life: grace to sustain our faith, strengthen our charity, and heal what is wounded within us. May the Church's sacramental life deepen our perseverance, humility, and love, so that we may welcome others as beloved children of God. And may the Lord, seeing our trust, speak to us those words of life: "Great is your faith." Amen.



THE MISSING BOOKS – ESTHER ADDITIONS

The final difference we'll cover in our series on the differences between the Catholic Bible and the Protestant Bibles is the additional sections of the Book of Esther. There are six additional chapters in the Book of Esther in the Greek version compared to the Hebrew version. Sometimes, these six chapters appear at the end of the Book of Esther. Sometimes, these six passages are placed in chronological order with the other chapters in the book. When included in the Book of Esther, these chapters are designated by letters (A-F), not numbers.

Chapter A acts as a prologue for the book, where Mordecai, the guardian for Esther, overhears two eunuchs plotting to kill the king. Mordecai reports this plot to the king, which starts Mordecai being at odds with Haman, a man assigned to be the king's right hand man. Haman is corrupt so Mordecai keeps a close eye on him.

Chapter B details how Haman composes a decree in the king's name condemning the Jews. People will be told later how and when the Jews are to be killed. The decree also goes on to sing the praises of Haman, which takes a lot of nerve since he wrote the decree.

In Chapter C, Mordecai prays for the Jewish people, asking God to protect them from the actions about to be taken against them. At the same time, Esther is praying. She hates having to dress in royal garments and reminds the Lord that she has refused to eat the food of the Babylonians. She asks God to strengthen her for the actions she is about to take.

Chapter D describes how Esther plays her role in protecting the Jewish people. She returns to her royal garbs and appears before the king without being summoned, which is not allowed. Before she goes to the king, she has been fasting and is very weak. She faints before the king and he lets her know that the laws about approaching the king without being summoned do not apply to her.

Chapter E explains how the king resolves the crisis of the Jews being condemned since he cannot rescind a previous edict, even if it was issued under false circumstances. The king issues a new edict that extols the Jews as loyal people and that citizens are to fight alongside the Jews on the day the initial edict says to kill the Jews.

Chapter F recaps how Mordecai is made second in command to the king. Mordecai recalls a dream he had that foresaw the events covered throughout the book. He is thankful to God for having mercy on the Jews and taking care of them.

While the Book of Esther stands on its own without the additions, the additions add more motivation to the story and additional insight into the actions of both Esther and Mordecai.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The Gospel today announces that the kingdom and salvation are for all people. It is our persistent calling out to Jesus and our faith that count, for Jesus always responds. With love for your neighbors who have nothing, look around your house to see what furniture, household items, and clothing you no longer use...and give it to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

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



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.



CCW BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER

Saint Francis of Assisi CCW distributed baby bottles the weekend of August 8 /9. We ask that you fill up a baby bottle (or two) with change, bills, or a check (payable to Catholic Charities of East Tennessee) and return the baby bottle(s) to church the weekends of August 23/23 and August 29/30

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).



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



*There is nothing the devil fears so much,
or so much tries to hinder,
as prayer.*



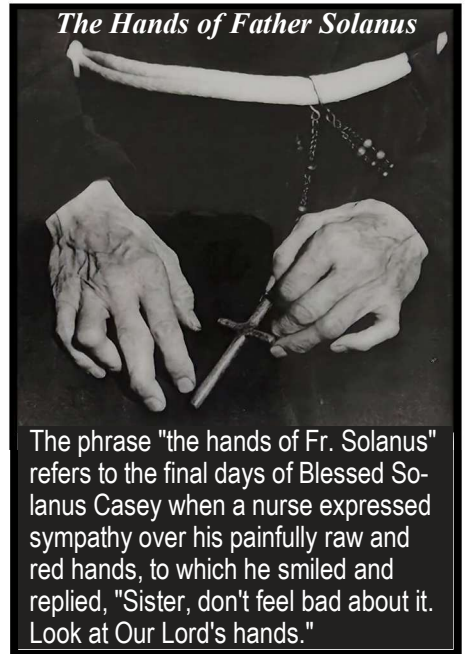
- St. Phillip Neri
1515 - 1595

A PRAYER INTENTION FOR ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISHIONERS

Parishioners Ralph and Michele Mularski visited the tomb of Blessed Solanus Casey at the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit, Michigan on July 29th. They placed this intention on the tomb of Blessed Solanus Casey:

"For the intentions of St. Francis of Assisi parishioners in Townsend, TN"

All intentions left at the tomb are prayed over by members of the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph. To find out more information on Blessed Solanus, please visit solanuscasey.org



The phrase "the hands of Fr. Solanus" refers to the final days of Blessed Solanus Casey when a nurse expressed sympathy over his painfully raw and red hands, to which he smiled and replied, "Sister, don't feel bad about it. Look at Our Lord's hands."

"Shake off excessive worry and exercise a little confidence in God's merciful providence."
- Fr. Solanus Casey

WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!



Our beloved parishioner Beryl Quinton, wife to Juan Quinton passed away early Tuesday morning (8/4/26). We had a beautiful celebration of life for Beryl on Tuesday, August 11 at 1:00 PM.

Smith Funeral Home was here to help facilitate the celebration. Jeff (from Smith Funeral Home) called the church office Wednesday morning and expressed how completely taken he was by the kindness that they received while at our church for the funeral Mass. Jeff wanted to be sure and let our parishioners know what a special congregation we have here and how much he enjoyed meeting everyone. Beryl will be buried Greenwood Cemetery in New Orleans, Louisiana. If anyone is interested, the family is suggesting a donation to St. Francis of Assisi Church or to Rocky Branch Mountain Music (4632 Rocky Branch Rd. Walland, TN 37886) where Juan and Beryl have been making music since 2012.





OCIA AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

If you or anyone you know are interested in exploring the Catholic Church as your church home or you have been sitting in the pew next to your Catholic spouse for years wondering what you have to do to become Catholic, or you are a practicing Catholic just wanting to learn more about your faith, please join us!

2026-2027 classes will begin on Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the PRC

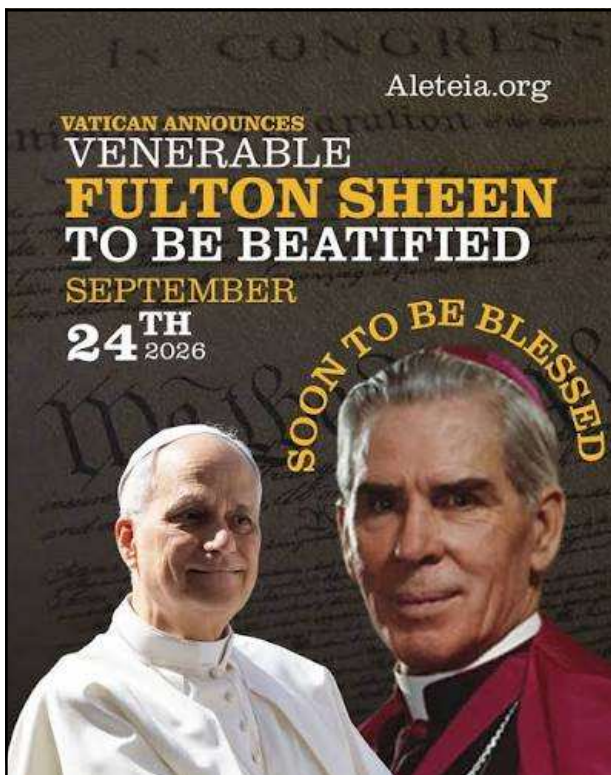
and will be held every Tuesday in the PRC at 6:00 PM. For more information please contact Deacon Jim: 901-493-2123 or sfadeacon7717@gmail.com.

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!



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.*

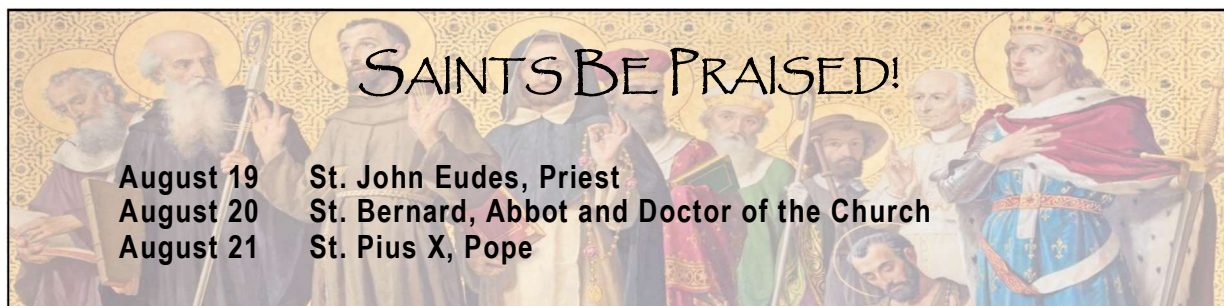
*"To practice God's presence is to acknowledge
Him frequently, affectionately, and honestly.
It is to live as if God were at your side."*

FROM THE INTRODUCTION
BY MATTHEW KELLY

THE PRACTICE of the PRESENCE of God

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
8/29/26	Bishop's Very Special Day (BVSD) St. John Neumann Farragut 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM	Online: https://dioknox.org/events/bishops-very-special-day Scan: QR code on poster in Shea Hall Email: radjule31@gmail.com
9/2/26	Community Connections St. Thomas - Lenoir City 6:00 - 8:00 PM (PFLC Social Hall)	Online: https://dioknox.org/events/community-connections-sept-2 Scan: QR code on poster in Shea Hall Phone: 865-986-9885
9/12/26	Women of the Knoxville Diocese All Saints Church - Knoxville 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM	Online: https://dioknox.org/events (scroll down) Scan: QR code on poster in Shea Hall Phone: 865-599-0137
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
10/24/26	Lead In His Image Diocesan Men's Retreat Sacred Heart Cathedral 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM	Online: https://dioknox.org/events/lead-in-his-image Scan: QR code on poster in Shea Hall Phone: N/A
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



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH
FINANCIAL SUMMARY
FISCAL YEAR 2025 - 2026

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Administrative</u>	
Offertory Collections	\$ 171,193.23	Salaries & Benefits	\$ 97,941.23
Holy Day Collections	13,399.80	Household expenses	7,689.16
Christmas Collections	<u>1,912.00</u>	Office Supplies & Software costs	6,049.01
Total	\$ 186,505.03	Honorarium & Fees	2,415.00
		Diocesan Assessments:	
		Communications	\$ 5,399.04
		Administrative	15,771.48
		Priest Benefit Dues & Auto	14,520.17
		Seminarians & Diaconate	-
		Retreats - Priest/Deacon	2,676.56
		Legal Fees	-
		Catholic Schools	8,541.96
		Tribunal	3,150.00
		Cathedral	3,269.64
		Total	\$ 53,328.85
			\$ 167,423.25
		<u>Liturgy</u>	
		Wine/Hosts	\$ 818.23
		Flowers & Palms	1,834.99
		Candles	763.35
		Music, Supplies, Missalettes	<u>3,191.49</u>
		Total	\$ 6,608.06
		<u>Parish Life</u>	
		Supplies	\$ 2,528.96
		Total	\$ 2,528.96
		<u>Operations & Maintenance</u>	
		Insurance	\$ 12,467.00
		Supplies	1,051.09
		Routine maintenance	2,007.38
		Mowing	2,025.00
		Repairs	482.07
		Utilities	<u>15,253.18</u>
		Total	\$ 33,285.72
Total Income	\$ 207,587.82	Total Expenses	\$ 209,845.99
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (2,258.17)		



BVSD 2026

Bishop's Very Special Day

Sponsored by DKSF

Diocese of Knoxville Special Friends



Come and celebrate with Bishop Beckman!

Join the Diocese of Knoxville for a faith-filled day of fun for individuals with disabilities and their families at St. John Neumann Church in Farragut! Bishop Mark Beckman will celebrate daily Mass at 10:30 am (with check-in beginning at 10:00 am), and afterwards, there will be activities, skits, and lunch. Contact Julie (radjulie31@gmail.com) with questions!

ASL INTERPRETER AT THE 10:30 AM MASS

Saturday, August 29

10:00 am - 1:30 pm



REGISTER



**Volunteers
needed**

