



AUGUST 23, 2026

21ST 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 8/24 8:30 AM German & Pamela Giraldo
Tue 8/25 8:30 AM Elias Ventura; † Genoveva Fuentes †
Wed 8/26 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 8/27 8:30 AM Edward Murphy †
Fri 8/28 8:30 AM Helen Gibson †
Sat 8/29 4:00 PM Noah Bell
Sun 8/30 9:00 AM Elias Ventura; † Genoveva Fuentes †

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, J.R. Bell

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: *The sanctuary candle is lit in memory of all souls in Purgatory - given by Julie & Mike Dew.* 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



Where there is doubt, faith.



St. Francis of Assisi
1181 - 1226



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Week of 8-16-2026

Actual Weekly Offertory	\$ 2,557.00
Budgeted Weekly Offertory	3,634.62
Weekly Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,077.62)
YTD actual offertory	26,965.10
YTD budgeted offertory	25,442.34
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)	1,522.76



BUT WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

There is an important distinction in today's gospel between the two questions being asked. "*Who do people say that the Son of Man is?*" is the first question we hear Jesus ask. This is the more generic question requiring more of a "grapevine" answer. What do people on the periphery think of me – people who have heard a sermon or witnessed a miracle or two? Do they actually know me, or have they just heard of me, or my family, or my hometown. Because the answer is not as personal, the apostles answer, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." They are generalizing what they have heard so that their answer cannot be taken too personally.

"*But who do you say that I am?*" Jesus is asking this question of Peter, someone whom he considers a friend. He has watched Peter give up his livelihood and his daily routine to follow him. This moment allows Peter to acknowledge if he understands why he has sacrificed so much. Jesus is the authority figure in this situation, but Peter also understands that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Peter gives the answer that show he understands: "You are Christ, the Son of the living God." Peter, a friend and follower, knows Jesus, and therefore his response is different from those given by the nameless followers who have misidentified Jesus' significance.

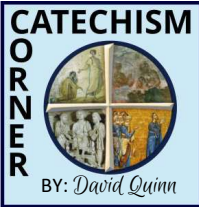
In today's gospel Peter's position of importance is clearly emphasized. Such insistence in the position of Peter is what underlies our belief that after Christ, the Holy Father is chief shepherd and head of the Church. His role is to be the visible representative of Christ. This doesn't mean he has perfectly represented Christ at all times in history, but that is still the position he holds. The reason is that we are not angels but we are called to perfection. Yet, the Pope has the final word on any issue related to the Church. The keys Jesus said he would give to Peter symbolize his authority. The keys Jesus gave to Peter were not buried with him and that position of authority did not end when Peter died. It was passed on to his successors.

A second important idea in today's gospel is the answer to the question Jesus asked his apostles "*Who do you say that I am?*" This question is also for us today. How we answer this question will determine how each of us relates to him. Is he, for example, someone worth our time on Sunday or even during the week? Is he someone we can trust? Is he someone who loves us, forgives us, wants only the best for us? Is he someone who has the authority to tell us how to live; what we should do; what we may not do? Is he someone we look forward to spending eternity with?

The apostles could tell Jesus what others said about him, and we can also say what others have said about Jesus. That's okay, for that's how we begin to learn who Jesus is, by what others tell us. But have we moved beyond what others have told us to know Jesus in a personal way, a way that Jesus could say has not been revealed to us by "Flesh and blood, but by the Heavenly Father?" If we do not know Jesus personally, what can we do that can help us to know him, not just by hearsay, but in a deeply personal way?

How we do it is how we get to know anyone in a more personal way, by spending time with a person. Spending time with God, with Jesus, in prayer, is how we get to know him in a more personal way.





THE MISSING BOOKS - RECAP

Over the past couple of months, we have been examining the books and chapters that are found in the Catholic Bible but not in Protestant bibles. I thought it might be good to recap what we learned about these books and chapters.

First, we learned why these books were in question as the Church Fathers went to specify what books should comprise the Bible. Agreement on the New Testament books happened fairly easily but the Old Testament books were contested. The biggest debate was whether to use what many referred to as the Hebrew Bible or to use the Septuagint, Jewish scriptures translated to Greek. The 328 AD Council of Rome agreed to use the Septuagint. That decision still remained at debate for centuries and was revisited yet again by Martin Luther in order to support his arguments against purgatory, indulgences, and papal supremacy. With the Reformation, Protestants decided to return to the Hebrew Bible, dropping seven books and multiple chapters from the Books of Daniel and Esther. The books and chapters that remain in the Catholic Bible are quite meaningful.

The Book of Tobit tells the story of a righteous man, Tobit, and his son, Tobiah. Tobit becomes blind and sends his son and a mystery accomplice to a distant relative to reclaim treasures Tobit left in savings years before. Tobiah meets the beautiful Sarah, who is possessed by a demon. Tobiah is able to dispel the demon and marries Sarah. After returning home to Tobit, Tobiah and Tobit find out that the mystery accomplice was the Archangel Rafeal.

The two books of Maccabees, 1 Maccabees and 2 Maccabees, are a combination of historical events of the Maccabean Revolt and stories of faith as the Hellenists try to force the Jews to reject their faith in God. The Maccabean Revolt was led by a father and his five sons to rebuild Jerusalem following the Babylonian Exile. Unlike other kingdoms that captured Israel and Judah that allowed the Jews to follow their religious practices, the Hellenists (i.e., Greeks) tried to get everyone to follow their religious practices. They met great resistance in the Jews.

The Book of Judith tells how the Jews were trapped in a city by the Assyrians. At the brink of surrendering, Judith steps forward and tells the leaders she has a plan that will lead to the Jews defeating the Assyrians. She pretends that she is escaping from the Jews and befriends the Assyrian general. After he gets drunk and falls asleep, Judith cuts off his head, rallying the Jews, and causing the Assyrians to retreat.

The Book of Baruch was written by Jeremiah's scribe. He tells the Israelites that they must follow the commands of the Babylonians while in exile but to remain faithful to the Lord.

The Book of Wisdom was at one time attributed to King Solomon but the author was trying to apply Solomon's wisdom and wrote a couple of chapters in King Solomon's name. The book actually emphasizes the pursuit of righteousness, which results in wisdom. Wisdom is personified as a female because of its incredible beauty. Wisdom also accompanied the Israelites throughout history but they ignored wisdom.

The Book of Sirach is sometimes called the Book of Ben Sira or the Book of Ecclesiasticus. The primary author was unable to finish the book so his grandson finished it. The book contains advice from a father to his son and appears as a series of proverbs.

The Books of Daniel and Esther are augmented with additional chapters in the Catholic Bible. Daniel has three friends that survive a fiery furnace saying a prayer while in the furnace. Daniel figures out two corrupt judges falsely accuse an innocent woman. For Esther, the additional chapters provide more background on her motivation to ask the king of Babylon to rescue the Jews.

You are encouraged to explore these books found in the Catholic Bible. They have special meaning and can help you appreciate the Catholic faith even more.

	
Protestant KJV	Catholic Bible
66 Books Total	73 Books Total
• 39 Old Testament • 27 New Testament	• + Tobit • + Wisdom • + Maccabees (1 & 2) • + Sirach • + Judith • + Baruch
EXCLUDES: Deuterocanonical/ "Apocrypha" Books	



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Like Peter in today's Gospel, we can find that when we open our eyes to see, our ears to hear and our hearts to experience Jesus' presence in our daily lives, God reveals himself to us.

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

*If we live the faith in our daily life,
then our work too becomes the chance to spread
the joy of being a Christian.*

- Pope Francis
1936 - 2025

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

Income

Revenues

Offerory Collections	\$ 171,193.23
Holy Day Collections	13,399.80
Christmas Collections	<u>1,912.00</u>
Total	\$ 186,505.03

Other Revenues

Mass Intentions	\$ 2,949.00
Stole fees(weddings,baptisms,funerals)	
Candles	1,220.50
Flowers	1,935.00
Room Rental	700.00
Gift Shop	2,300.71
Interest on checking & savings	<u>11,977.58</u>
Total	\$ 21,082.79

Total Income \$ 207,587.82

Surplus/(Deficit) \$ (2,258.17)

Expenses

Administrative

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 97,941.23
Household expenses	7,689.16
Office Supplies & Software costs	6,049.01
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

Liturgy

Wine/Hosts	\$ 818.23
Flowers & Palms	1,834.99
Candles	763.35
Music, Supplies, Missalettes	<u>3,191.49</u>
Total	\$ 6,608.06

Parish Life

Supplies	\$ 2,528.96
Total	\$ 2,528.96

Operations & Maintenance

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 Expenses \$ 209,845.99



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAM

Catechism for younger parishioners who need instruction for Sacraments, will be offered here at St. Francis of Assisi starting this fall. There will be a "meet and greet" on Sunday, September 13th at 10:30 AM in the PRC. Any questions please email Julie at: jdewtn2018@att.net.



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!

Aleteia.org

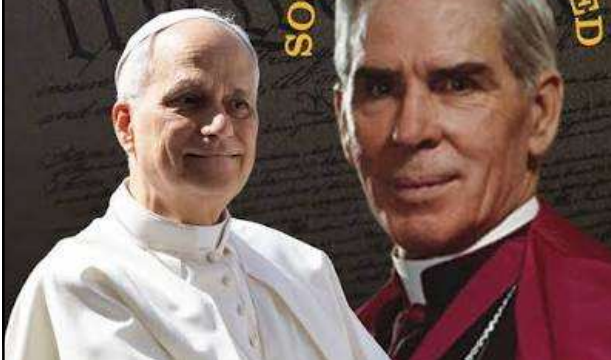
VATICAN ANNOUNCES

VENERABLE
FULTON SHEEN
TO BE BEATIFIED

SEPTEMBER

24TH
2026

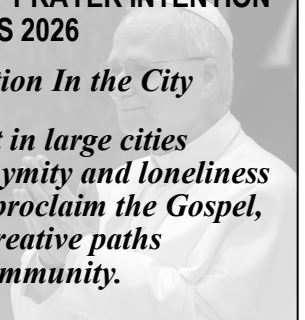
SOON TO BE BLESSED



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.*



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

*"Though you do not see the Lord,
you believe,
and in believing
there is unspeakable joy."*

*- St. Polycarp
c. 69 AD to c 155 AD*



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: radjulie31@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
9/18/26	Rachel's Vineyard Weekend Retreat Christ Prince of Peace Retreat Ctr. Benton, TN	Online: ccetn.org/project-rachel E-Mail: sandi@ccetn.org Phone: 865-776-4510
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 8:00 AM Sacred Heart Cathedral	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

