



SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

23RD 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
DEACON.....Dc. Jim Schmall
OFFICE MANAGERSKatrina Allocco &
Lesa Schmall
BOOKKEEPERKathleen Halligan
LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTOR.....JoAnne Romer-Aylward
DIR. OF RELIGIOUS ED.Julie Dew
OCIA.....Dc. Jim Schmall
ART & ENVIRONMENTMichele Girard &
Norene O'Donnell

GARDENS & GROUNDS..... Ilene Rainwater
FACILITIES David Girard
SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE JoAnne Romer-Aylward
PASTORAL CARE..... Suzie Fay
ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP..... Camilla Sorrell
COLUMBARIUM Bob Eberhardt
WELCOMING, EVENTS & All Parishioners
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	9/7	8:30 AM	Giraldo & Correa Families
Tue	9/8	8:30 AM	Jeanne Vilardo +
Wed	9/9	NO MORNING MASS	
Thu	9/10	8:30 AM	Gary Trower +
Fri	9/11	8:30 AM	Charles Kirk +
Sat	9/12	4:00 PM	Armando Rodriguez +
Sun	9/13	9:00 AM	Michael & Julie Dew

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, Mike Girard, Marcus Bolte

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: *The sanctuary flowers this week are in memory of Catherine Pham Thi Huynh and Jude Thaddeus Huynh Ngoc Tho.* 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!



ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	9/7	9:00 AM	Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue	9/8	6:00 PM	OCIA - PRC
Wed	9/9		
Thu	9/10		
Fri	9/11		
Sat	9/12	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	9/13	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass
		10:30 AM	Sacramental Prep Meet and Greet - PRC

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Week of 8-30-2026

Actual Weekly Offertory	\$ 7,028.00
Budgeted Weekly Offertory	3,634.62
Weekly Surplus/(Deficit)	3,393.38
YTD Actual Offertory	36,989.45
YTD Budgeted Offertory	32,711.58
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)	4,277.87

CONFLICT RESOLUTION



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today Jesus shows us how to live as members of God's family. In every family, people sometimes get hurt, make mistakes, or need help choosing what is right. Jesus reminds us that we do not face these moments alone. We belong to God, and because we belong to him, we are called to care for one another.

Now, growing up with four brothers, the five of us didn't always see eye to eye. It fell upon our only sister to major in conflict resolution before she even entered high school. Now, I know what you are thinking. That poor girl. How did she ever survive growing up with five brothers?

Trust me, she learned early on how to fend for herself! So much so that whenever the brothers had a disagreement, we tried to settle it ourselves. We were all kind of afraid of her. Even to this day, when she calls, the first thing that pops into mind is, what did I do. But whatever the offense, she always has a way of getting us back on track.

This weekend, we also celebrate Labor Day. The readings invite us to see work in a holy way. Labor Day is a time to thank God for all whose labor supports our families and communities: parents, teachers, nurses, farmers, police officers, firefighters, construction workers, store workers, parish volunteers, and many others. Work is more than earning a living; it can be a way to love, serve, protect, teach, and care for one another.

In the first reading, God appoints Ezekiel as a watchman, one who notices danger and speaks up to help others stay safe. We share that responsibility, not by controlling people, but by guiding them toward what is good. Parents, teachers, and friends all help one another grow in kindness, honesty, and peace.

Saint Paul gives us the simple rule for how to do this: love one another. Love is the heart of God's law. So, when we correct someone, we should not try to embarrass them or win an argument. We should speak with kindness because we want the other person to grow, to be happy, and to be close to God.

This is a good lesson for Labor Day. Whatever our work may be - at a job, in the home, at school, or in the parish - we are called to do it with love. A parent who prepares a meal, a child who helps cleanup, a teacher who guides students, a worker who treats others fairly, and a parishioner who serves quietly are all showing love through their work. When work is done with love, it becomes a blessing.

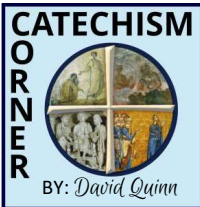
In the Gospel, Jesus tells us what to do when someone hurts us. He says we should first speak to that person privately. That means we do not run around telling everyone else what happened. We do not gossip. We do not stay angry forever. We try to talk kindly and honestly, so that peace can begin again.

This can happen at home, at school, in the parish, and with friends. Sometimes the hardest words to say are, "I am sorry," "I forgive you," or "Can we start again?" But these are powerful words. They are words that build peace. They are words that make our homes and our church more like the family of God.

Jesus also promises, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." These are words of great comfort. Christ is present when we gather in faith. He is present when we pray together. He is present when we seek forgiveness. He is present when a family tries again, when a parish chooses unity over division, and when wounded hearts take even a small step toward peace.

Today, the Lord invites each of us - parents, children, friends, and neighbors, brothers and sisters - to reflect honestly: Have my words hurt someone? Do I need to say, "I am sorry"? Is there someone I need to forgive? How can I help bring peace at home, at school, in church, or with a friend? Do I need to call our sister and get her involved?

Let us ask Jesus to help us speak with kindness, forgive readily, and build peace wherever we are. This Labor Day, we pray for all workers, for those seeking work, for those whose work is difficult, and for families who labor each day to care for one another. May our homes, schools, workplaces, parishes, and friendships be places where people feel loved, supported, respected, and welcomed. And may we always remember that when we gather in Jesus' name, he is truly with us. Amen.



The Missing Books – New Catholic Edition

Just when it seemed like we were finished talking about the Bible, one more topic arises. This is not anything specific to books not in the Bible but a new Bible edition being published. We will see the release of the “Catholic American Bible” (frequently referred to as the CAB) in 2027. The forthcoming CAB replaces the New American Bible (NAB) and the New American Bible – Revised Edition (NABRE). The original edition of the NAB was released in 1970 and the NABRE in 2011. Currently, we have the NAB used in different liturgies, like the Liturgy of the Hours, but the NABRE used for personal study and praise. The United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) authorized the work on the CAB in 2012 to try and standardize the Scripture for Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, personal study, and other uses.

Bible translations look at the original Hebrew and Greek texts and generally take one of two approaches. One approach is to do a word-for-word translation. This can be tricky because we do not always talk the way the Hebrews or the Greeks talked when we speak in English today. Actually, we see this between our current languages. In English, we start the Lord’s Prayer with “Our Father...” but in Spanish, we start “Padre Nuestro...” If we translated the beginning of the Lord’s Prayer from Spanish to English, we would start “Father our...” For the record, the Spanish beginning is closer to the Latin beginning than the English beginning is.

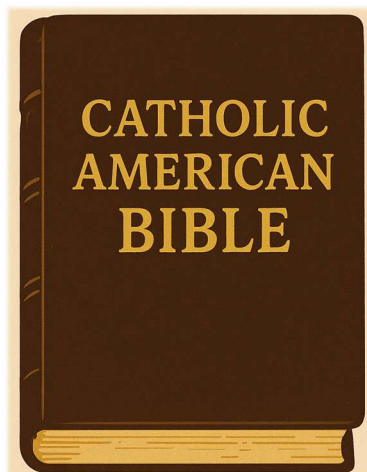
The other approach to translating Hebrew and Greek to English would be thought-for-thought. This is why we start to see some major differences between translations used by different faiths. It is not that words are in a different order in most verses but that the verses seem to be expressing completely different ideas. And these translations tend to be influenced by the cultural biases of the person/people doing the translation.

The CAB will use both approaches as it tries to better align with the intent of the author of the original text. This is an important difference in approach because, as I heard someone recently state, we know more about the culture and surroundings of the Bible authors than translators centuries ago due to more archeological discoveries in recent decades. For instance, the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered in 1946, which allowed more translations to be based on the original Hebrew instead of Latin.

One of the biggest changes you’ll find in the CAB is the renaming of the Book of Psalms to the Abbey Psalms and Canticles. It is still the 150 psalms that have always been in the Old Testament. However, this is a translation led by the monks at Conception Abbey in Missouri with assistance from the USCCB and the Vatican. They completed this work in 2024 and is already available to people. Since many of the psalms are poetic in nature, the Abbey Psalms and Canticles looked to give that poetic sense to the psalms.

The USCCB selected two major US Catholic publishing companies, Ascension Press and Bishop Barron’s Word on Fire. They are busy creating the various books to support the roll out of the CAB. The USCCB has set Ash Wednesday of 2027 as the initial roll date for the Liturgy of the Hours and personal Bibles. The Liturgy of the Hours is four volumes but the initial volume to be rolled out is Volume 2 for Lent and Easter. The other volumes will be released just before they are to be used, so the order for release of the volumes will be Volumes 2, 3, 4, and then 1 (which is Advent and Christmas). Other books like the Lectionary for Mass will be available shortly after the initial roll out.

Both Ascension Press and Word on Fire have started waiting lists for ordering personal Bibles. 2027 should be a significant year in the US Catholic Church.





THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel, Jesus says: "...where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we help them to know that indeed "God is in the midst of them."

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!

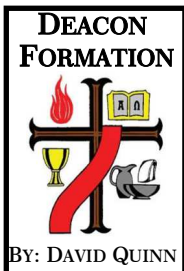
SVdP SEPTEMBER "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH"



SECOND HARVEST FACILITY IN MARYVILLE FIELD TRIP

On August 5th the St. Vincent de Paul members, along with Camp Ground United Methodist members had an opportunity to tour the Second Harvest facility in Maryville. We were able to see the massive food warehouse, cooler, and freezer that supports 22 counties in East Tennessee. We also got a feel for how the operation is managed, from food coming into the facility, to our order for the Food Pantry being filled. Afterwards the fellowship continued with lunch at Aubrey's. A fun day for all!





BECOMING A DEACON – EPISTLES

Our next major topic for formation weekends was St. Paul and his epistles (i.e., the letters we read in Mass). Of course, you have to start in Acts of the Apostles with Paul when he was Saul and persecuting the Jewish followers of Jesus for not adhering to the Mosaic Law. As Saul, he was blinded by a great light while traveling to Damascus, seeks out Ananias to be healed, and studies the life and teachings of Jesus. He wants to become an active disciple of Jesus and changes his name to Paul (too many people feared “Saul”).

Paul writes letters to different churches throughout the Mediterranean region, whether he had visited them or not. The people in each church are having to deal with different problems in their relationship with each other or with Church teachings. As the “Apostle to the Gentiles,” St. Paul is constantly having to address Jews who still want to enforce Mosaic Law over Jesus’ teachings. He tries to address when people are offending God by honoring pagan gods or eating foods offered to pagan gods. He also emphasizes how the Church is one body and Jesus is the head.



SEPTEMBER 12 & 13 SECOND COLLECTION

On September 12 and 13, a second collection will be taken in support of the Diocese’s St. Mary’s Legacy Mobile Medical Clinic that visits 10 medically underserved rural areas of East TN monthly providing healthcare and telehealth to the poor and uninsured. This “doctor office on wheels” is run by a small staff with the help of over 100 volunteer physicians, nurses, and community members who donate their time and talent to this great ministry. The Clinic provides primary health care, and access to advanced care through community partnerships. As an osteopathic physician, and the Clinic’s Medical Director, Sr. Gianna Marie Savidge, MD, RSM, provides a “whole-person” approach, which considers both the physical and mental needs of SMLC patients. To learn more, visit www.SMLCares.com. Please be generous in supporting this great medical ministry.



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

"If you have anything against any man, forgive it: you come here to receive forgiveness of sins, and thou also must forgive him that has sinned against you. Else with what face will you say to the Lord, Forgive me my many sins, if you have not yourself forgiven your fellow-servant even his little sins."

*- St. Cyril of Jerusalem
315 AD - 386 AD*

*(From his Catechetical Lectures, linking our readiness
to forgive others directly to receiving the Lord in the Eucharist).*



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.

Aleteia.org

VATICAN ANNOUNCES

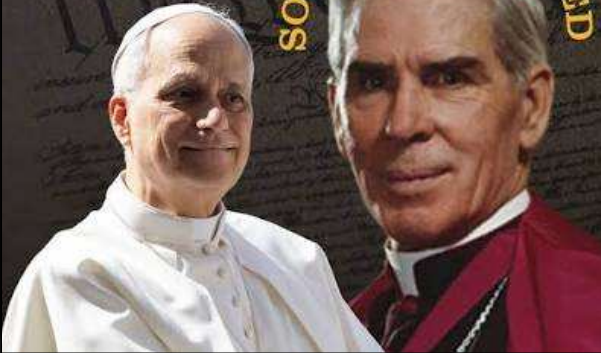
VENERABLE

FULTON SHEEN
TO BE BEATIFIED

SEPTEMBER

24TH
2026

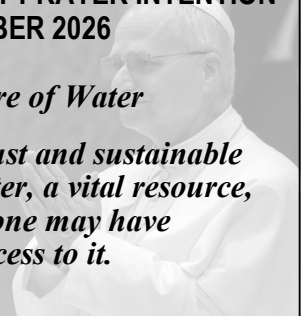
SOON TO BE BLESSED



POPE LEO'S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION SEPTEMBER 2026

For the Care of Water

*Let us pray for a just and sustainable
management of water, a vital resource,
so that everyone may have
equal access to it.*



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.



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



*To love and forgive as God loves and forgives
is a program of life
that cannot know interruptions or exceptions.*



*- Pope Francis
1936 - 2025*

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
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
9/20/26	Young Adult Mass & Dinner with Bishop Mark Beckman Sacred Heart Cathedral 4:00 PM	Online: dioknox.org/events Scan: QR code on poster in Shea Hall E-Mail: mlouque@dioknox.org
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
10/23/26	Diocesan Young Adult Frassati Retreat (23rd-25th) Christ Prince of Peace Retreat Ctr.	Online: dioknox.org/events Scan: QR code on poster in Shea Hall E-Mail: mlouque@dioknox.org
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



ST. FRANCIS WORDS OF WISDOM JUBILEE YEAR 2026



*It is in pardoning
that we are pardoned.*



*St. Francis of Assisi
1181 - 1226*



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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