



OCTOBER 11, 2026 28TH 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)	
		<u>PARISH ASSOCIATIONS:</u>	
		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 please 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 10/12 8:30 AM COMMUNION SERVICE
Tue 10/13 8:30 AM COMMUNION SERVICE
Wed 10/14 NO MORNING MASS or COMMUNION SERVICE
Thu 10/15 8:30 AM COMMUNION SERVICE
Fri 10/16 8:30 AM COMMUNION SERVICE
Sat 10/17 4:00 PM Donna Seiz
Sun 10/18 9:00 AM Beryl Quinton +

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, Marcus Bolte, Amy Buxton

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 this week in memory of Dave Colahan.* 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 10/12 9:00 AM Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue 10/13 6:00 PM OCIA - PRC
Wed 10/14
Thu 10/15
Fri 10/16
Sat 10/17 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
Sun 10/18 9:00 AM Sunday Mass

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Week of 10-4-2026	
Actual Weekly Offertory	\$ 5,617.00
Budgeted Weekly Offertory	3,634.62
Weekly Surplus/(Deficit)	1,982.38
YTD Actual Offertory	56,707.70
YTD Budgeted Offertory	50,884.68
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)	5,823.02



PASTOR'S NOTES

COMING TO THE FEAST REQUIRES BEING CHANGED

Today's first reading and today's gospel give us a beautiful picture of what it is we're praying for when we say, "thy will be done." God's will is for our complete and eternal happiness. Our gospel warns us, however, that in order to be part of this beautiful plan, we need to respond to the invitation he offers us.

The vision from the prophet Isaiah gives us a wonderful image of God's holy mountain. While Isaiah gives us a vision of God's full reign in God's kingdom, Jesus teaches us something about the reality of the kingdom and our participation in it. He does so with the use of a parable.

In the parable, the kingdom is likened to a King who throws a banquet. Heaven is going to surpass all our hopes and expectations. It's going to be more wonderful than we can imagine. Because there will be love and joy and peace like we've never experienced, it's hard for God to tell us about it. All he can do is use images that we are familiar with: a great banquet, a wedding feast, the elimination of suffering and death, wealth that cannot be exhausted as in the hidden treasure, the pearl of great price or the mansion God is preparing for us. Today, we heard Isaiah compare it to a great banquet and Jesus compares it to a wedding celebration for a prince which would be an event people would remember for years.

As seen in the vision of Isaiah and in this parable, the unimaginable generosity of God is a free gift that is freely given to us all. But do we gratefully receive the gift that is given? Does the generosity of God move us or change us? The answers to these questions are not only seen in the indifference of the invited guests, but they are at the heart of why the parable ends the way it does.

As Jesus tells us: "to have all this wonder and joy we must respond to his invitation." We must be wise enough not to turn it down. How will we recognize the invitation when it comes? The list can be long as we hear Jesus say: "Come to me all you who labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you." Or "I am the Good Shepherd," a shepherd whose sheep hear his voice and follow him. We hear his invitation in the sermon of the mount when Jesus tells us: "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a man who built his house on rock." Or from the Book of Revelation: "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will enter his house and dine with him and he with me."

Jesus does not promise everything will be wonderful in this world if we respond to his call, for: "If anyone would come after me, let him take up his cross and follow me." But for those who would respond, he promises "I will be with you always;" "I will not leave you orphans." In a special way he invites us to begin enjoying the wonderful banquet heaven will provide when he tells us, "Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood you do not have life in you." Jesus invites us each morning to "take this and eat, take this and drink." For Catholics this is part of his invitation to "keep holy the Lord's Day."

In Today's parable we see an important message about the kingdom, for while God's promise of life in the kingdom is a gift given unconditionally, we do share in a responsibility: we must receive the gift and act on it. In other words, having been loved so generously by our God, we are called to move out of ourselves and be changed by love: to put on Christ.



Continued on next page

PASTOR'S NOTES - CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

At first glance, it may seem harsh or unfair that the king throws the one fellow out of the banquet. But the ejected guest does not change. He misses the point that coming to the feast requires being changed – that we are to be changed by the generous gift we are given by God.

The invited guests show themselves to be unworthy of the generous king's banquet. Because of this, the King calls for everyone to come, inviting all people from the crossroads, the good and the bad. All are invited.

The kingdom is about God's unfathomable love poured out on us – not based on our merit, not based on whether we deserve it, but poured out as a generous gift. And the kingdom is about action. It is about receiving the love, being changed by the love, and putting that love into action by loving others as we have been loved.



BECOMING A DEACON – SACRAMENTAL THEOLOGY

Just when we thought we knew a lot about the Catholic faith, they hit us with a topic like Sacramental Theology. This was a weekend of trying to understand how the sacraments give us a deeper insight into God and how they reflect how God wants to be worshipped. We received good insight into the origins of each sacrament and how they are shown in Scripture.

All sacraments confer the grace they signify and our various Rites try to reflect that grace. Sacraments are grouped together: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are the Sacraments of Initiation (learning and accepting our faith). Matrimony and Holy Orders are the Sacraments of Communion (bringing us together). Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick form the Sacraments of Healing (repairing damages to our souls).

STATIONS RENEWAL PROJECT



One of the blessings of our parish are the Stations of the Cross by the river. They are truly inspirational and we constantly see visitors stopping by to look at them. However, time has not been kind to the Stations and they are in need of renewal. Simple repairs are not sufficient; certain parts need to be replaced.

Several parishioners are banding together to bring back the original beauty of the Stations to our parish. The original source of the artwork displayed in each Station has been located in Spain, which will bring back the vibrant colors of the artwork. Redwood will be used by our craftsmen to create new boxes that will be more weather and pest resistant. Polarized glass will be installed to prevent future fading of the artwork by the sun. The current posts, crucifixes, and memorial plates will remain in place. And all of the supplies and work will be at no cost to the parish based on directed donations.

If you would like to help offset the costs of this renewal project and the upkeep of the stations in the future, you can make a directed donation to the parish maintenance fund. Just make sure you designate "Stations Project" on your donation. Additionally, as part of this renewal project, we are going to create a memorial plaque to recognize Mick O'Brien as the originator of this beautiful devotional for our parish. We are planning to have Father do a blessing of the renewed Stations and the plaque once the new Stations are completed.

As a pilgrimage site for the Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi, we hope this renewal project enhances the spiritual experience of the pilgrims who come to our parish (yes, we have had a number of pilgrims already). We also believe this will extend the life of the Stations for decades to come.

CATECHISM

ORNER



BY: Julie Dew

THE HISTORY OF THE ROSARY

Good and happy weekend, St. Francis! The following is a little info about the origin of the Rosary. It is well established that the Holy Rosary has a few different stories of origin. Some of them are downright off, contradictory, or a really lazy attempt to fill in the history where we otherwise find blanks.

Let's start with the basic version. Modern books love to tell a charming tale about illiterate lay-people who, unable to read the 150 psalms monks recited daily, were given simple prayers to repeat instead - a prayer chain of 150 "Hail Marys" and "Our Fathers" on a string of knots. The idea was to create something comparable to the monks' daily routine, minus the Latin and the heavy-duty memorization. Eventually, those knots were swapped for beads - because, let's face it, knots were never going to be the next big thing in fashion!! Actually, this sounds pretty good - don't you think? This version is peppered with some truth, but it has some major inaccuracies. First of all, not all monks prayed all 150 psalms on a daily basis. Indeed, the specific rules for religious orders and congregations varied widely on prayer. The Fourth Lateran Council forbade the approval of new rules for future religious orders. FYI: Synods, councils, and bulls would address the standardization of the Divine Office well after the rosary skyrocketed to popularity in the thirteenth century.

The more widely accepted version of the rosary's origins comes from medieval France, where St. Dominic found himself in the midst of one of the most intense religious battles of the time. The Albigensians, or Cathars as they were known, had popped up in the region, spreading their dualistic heretical theology. This "group" were anti-Catholic in the extreme, rejecting marriage, childbearing, and even baptism unless death was right around the corner. And although they claimed to shun violence, their version of peace looked suspiciously like submission. The Cathars - who kind of acted like the holier-than-thou Pharisees of the Old Testament - appeared to offer a counterpoint to the lavish lifestyles of some Catholic clergy, who were living it up while allegedly ignoring the real work of faith. (There's always some of THOSE in every group and ruin it for the rest of us!) As one might imagine, this created quite the religious and political storm. Enter Dominic of Santa María de La Vid. Dominic was known for his preaching, but he didn't just preach - he engaged in debates with the Cathars (similar to a modern-day Charlie Kirk - RIP), and his combination of passionate evangelization and a humble life led many to re-examine their beliefs. He was on a roll!

It was in 1208 that the legends describe the Blessed Virgin appearing to Dominic and giving him a spiritual "battering ram." Our Lady, the story goes, revealed the form of the devotion and the layout of the holy mysteries of the life of Christ and Mary, which would repel heresy and propel any believer into virtue. And thus, the holy rosary, a meditation on Christ's life through fifteen distinct mysteries, was born. Dominic and his followers began to spread this powerful new prayer, and, before long, the Cathars were being driven out of Europe. Please note the five Luminous Mysteries, or Mysteries of Light, were introduced in 2002 by Pope John Paul II in the Holy Rosary.

Soon the Dominican Order was officially approved by Pope Honorius III, becoming a powerhouse in preaching the rosary and eradicating the Albigensians. Today, we remember all of this in October, the month of the Holy Rosary, culminating with the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7 (this was the date of the Battle of Lepanto).

Setting aside the supernatural elements of this story, many books that discuss the origins of the rosary leave even Dominic out. But can the "Dominican" version of the rosary's history be proven? I answer with a firm and confident "yes." How about you?

We will continue with "The History of the Rosary" next week! Blessings St. Francis of Assisi!



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

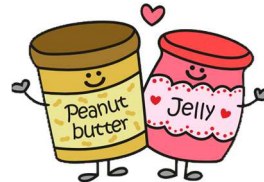
In today's Gospel we hear Jesus say: "Many are invited, but few are chosen." To give thanks for all that God has given to you, have you considered answering the call to help serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul? Contact Debbie Eberhardt at 865-312-0141 for more information.

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 OCTOBER "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY



St. Vincent de Paul Society Invites You! Food Pantry Open House

Saturday and Sunday, October 10 & 11 - after **BOTH** Masses

Parish Resource Center

- ♦ Meet the volunteers who make this ministry possible
- ♦ Learn how you can help serve your neighbors in need
- ♦ Tour the food pantry
- ♦ Enjoy some light refreshments and fellowship

SVdP DONATION GUIDELINES

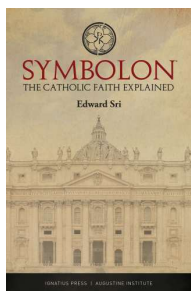
- The preprinted SVdP church contribution envelope, (which is marked for the beginning of the month) can be placed in the collection basket **ANY** time of the month. If you are not using preprinted envelopes and want to place your donation in a weekend Mass collection basket, please put your donation 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.



OCIA AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

If you are interested in exploring the Catholic Church - or you know someone that is - 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 are held every Tuesday in the PRC at 6:00 PM.



This year we will be using a program called "Symbolon" via the online digital streaming platform *Formed.org*. *Formed* provides Catholic educational content, movies, audio books, Bible studies, and family programs which are available to EVERY St. Francis of Assisi parishioner! *Formed* is produced by the Augustine Institutes and is often described as a "Catholic Netflix!"

Formed is FREE! All you have to do is go to *Formed.org* and enter our parish name or zip code, and you are signed up. The zip code for Townsend is 37882. Anytime, anywhere, any platform - personal computer, tablet, smartphone, smart tv - all kinds of advice on difficult subjects of the faith and living a moral life in a damaged world. If you are already signed up at another parish you can reach out to the support group and they will help you switch from your old parish to ours (customer.service@augustineinstitute.org). You really need to get yourself registered on *Formed* and start making use of this unbelievable resource!

Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained is a systematic presentation of our Catholic Faith. It leads the participant through the "big picture" of the Catholic Faith using the Creed as the guide. Symbolon brings together some of the most trusted Catholic teachers in the world to guide you through the breadth and richness of the Catholic faith. One of the things that OCIA participants will find beneficial this year is the ability to look ahead and prepare for upcoming sessions and/or review past sessions. While there is a lot to be said for small group discussions and faith sharing, if your schedule does not permit, you do not have to attend the OCIA sessions to benefit from the Symbolon presentations! Go get yourself *Formed* !

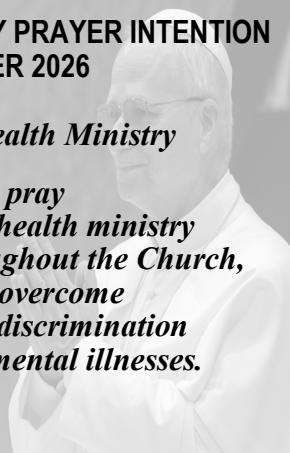
For more information please contact Deacon Jim:
901-493-2123 or sfdeacon7717@gmail.com.



POPE LEO'S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION OCTOBER 2026

For Mental Health Ministry

*Let us pray
that the mental health ministry
be established throughout the Church,
helping to overcome
the stigma and discrimination
of persons with mental illnesses.*



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST



*"O precious
and wonderful banquet
that brings us salvation
and contains all sweetness!"*

*- St. Thomas Aquinas
1225 - 1274*

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
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
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
12/19/26	Parish Advent Mission (Shea Hall) with Fr. Julian Peters, OSB	Online: N/A E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070



Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



*Accepting God's invitation
means allowing ourselves
to be changed.*



*- Fr. Felmar Castrodos Fiel, SVD
Radio Veritas Asia*



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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

SAINTS BE PRAISED!

- October 14 St. Callistus I, Pope and martyr
- October 15 St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
- October 16 St. Hedwig, Religious
St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin
- October 17 St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and martyr

HAM'N GOODYS



Dawn patrol ground
Dawn patrol whole
Night surf ground
Night surf whole

\$20/16 oz. bag

Cookies & Coffee Fundraiser 10/17/26 - after Mass



\$20/Dozen

- Lemon
- Chocolate Chip
- Sugar
- Snickerdoodle
- Assorted:
(lemon, Chocolate Chip, Strawberry, Snickerdoodle, Sugar)
- Peanut Butter
- Strawberry
- Gluten-Free chocolate Chip
- Gluten-free lemon
- Or a ham and goodies voucher to pick up cookies

Proceeds from sales benefit the Seymour Community Christian School Senior Trip. Cookie and Coffee orders will be available for pick-up in Shea Hall on October 31st Before and after Mass.



CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH CHRISTMAS BOX OF JOY PROGRAM

Our St. Francis of Assisi Council of Catholic Women group is once again sponsoring the Cross Catholic Outreach Christmas Box of Joy project. A Box of Joy is a Christmas shoebox that is donated and packed with toys, clothing, school supplies and other treasured items by U.S. parishes, schools and groups. Each child who receives a Box of Joy also receives a rosary and a booklet in their own language that tells the story of Jesus. Boxes of Joy are sent to children in developing countries like Haiti, Malawi and the Dominican Republic and provide hope to children in need: Each gift represents Christ's love, and may be the only Christmas gift they receive.

You can fill your own Christmas Box of Joy (available in the PRC or at the St. Clare Gift Shop) or purchase a box online at <https://crosscatholic.org/box-of-joy/> and then click on "Donate a Box of Joy Online." If you choose to fill your own box, please return the box to the church by November 1st so that we can get them to the Diocese drop-off point. CCW will pay the \$9.00 shipping fee. If you have any questions, please contact Ilene Rainwater at 865-748-1873.



Donate a Box of Joy Online

All Souls Day Mass

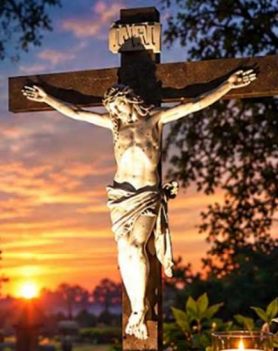
JOIN BISHOP MARK BECKMAN

on

Monday, November 2 at 4:00 pm

at Holy Cross Cemetery

14301 Northshore Dr. • Lenoir City, TN 37772



On All Souls Day,

we remember our deceased loved ones,
commend them to God's mercy, and renew
our hope in the Resurrection promised
by Jesus Christ.

All are welcome to attend.



"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them."

During the month of November,

the Diocese of Knoxville is offering a
special savings on cemetery plots at
Holy Cross Cemetery.

\$1,999 PER PLOT
SAVE \$201



HOLY CROSS
CEMETERY

A Catholic Legacy of Faith and Hope.

For more information about cemetery plots,
burial options and Catholic funeral planning,
please contact Holy Cross Cemetery.



ST. FRANCIS WORDS OF WISDOM

JUBILEE YEAR 2026



I have done what was mine to do; may Christ teach you what is yours.



*St. Francis of Assisi
1181 - 1226*

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!