



OCTOBER 18, 2026 29TH 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 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.

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 10/19 8:30 AM **COMMUNION SERVICE**
Tue 10/20 8:30 AM **COMMUNION SERVICE**
Wed 10/21 **NO MORNING MASS or COMMUNION SERVICE**
Thu 10/22 8:30 AM Elias Ventura+ Genoveva Fuentes+
Fri 10/23 8:30 AM Beryl Quinton+
Sat 10/24 4:00 PM Joyce Griffin+
Sun 10/25 9:00 AM Edward & Joyce Welsh

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, J.R. Bell, Marcus Bolte, Amy Buxton, Cindy Gress

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 Phillip Ott.* 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 10/19 9:00 AM Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue 10/20 6:00 PM OCIA - PRC
Wed 10/21
Thu 10/22
Fri 10/23
Sat 10/24 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
Sun 10/25 9:00 AM Sunday Mass

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Week of 10-11-2026

Actual Weekly Offertory	\$ 2,802.00
Budgeted Weekly Offertory	3,634.62
Weekly Surplus/(Deficit)	(832.62)
YTD Actual Offertory	59,509.70
YTD Budgeted Offertory	54,519.30
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)	4,990.40



WE HAVE RECEIVED A PRIVILEGED CITIZENSHIP

As adopted children of our heavenly Father, we are citizens of a heavenly Kingdom. We are called and chosen to be a holy people, set apart for God's praise and glory. The Father wants us to share his divine life now as well as in eternity, to develop and an intimacy of relationship with him, speaking with him in prayer and hearing from him through his word. We are gifted with the high dignity of being made in God's image and likeness. We have received a privileged citizenship and, with it, a call to extend God's Kingdom on earth.

This is why, even as people set apart, we need to see the importance of public affairs. The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council taught: "The Church regards as worthy of praise and consideration the work of those who, as a service to others, dedicate themselves to the welfare of the state and undertake the burdens of this task (*The Church in the Modern World*. 75). Followers of Christ are called to bring an authentic Christian voice to government and political affairs.

The Christian life is not in opposition to civil life. God's plan for our lives exceeds our imaginings. His plan includes obedience to the laws of governing authorities – and God's plan will not be thwarted.

The prophet Isaiah recognized Cyrus of Persia as God's instrument for fulfilling the plan for the Jews to be returned from exile in Babylon to restore Jerusalem and its temple. Let us pray that our minds be penetrated by the light of the Holy Spirit so that we may recognize and respond to God's plan for us.



DIOCESAN HUMAN RESOURCE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NEEDED

The Diocese of Knoxville Office of Human Resources is seeking an experienced Human Resource Administrative Assistant to provide day-to-day operational and clerical support to the Diocesan HR office. Full job description is on the diocesan website at <https://dioknox.org/employment>. Send cover letter and resume to Gina Wasilewski, HR Coordinator at gwasilewski@dioknox.org.



SECOND COLLECTION - OCTOBER 31 & NOVEMBER 1, 2026 CATHOLIC SCHOOL TUITION SUPPORT

A second collection will be taken on October 31st and November 1st for Diocesan Catholic School Tuition support. The Catholic schools in our diocese provide spiritual and intellectual growth for 2,600 students in our two high schools and eight elementary schools. During the 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. While there are many ways we seek support for our schools, no one way fully meets the growing need each year. Over the past five years, the need for supplemental tuition support has more than doubled. And over this past year, a record \$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.

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH.



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



DEACON FORMATION



BY: DAVID QUINN

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 is 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. Cedar 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. And all of the supplies and work will be at no cost to the parish based on directed donations. We have received a very generous donation for this project from the Little River Pub and Deli here in Townsend. Please support their business as they have supported us, and please thank the owners Erin and Ed, for their generosity.

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

CORNER



BY: Julie Dew

MORE HISTORY OF THE ROSARY

Happy, happy and glorious autumn weekend St. Francis! Are you interested in more history of the Rosary? I know I am!

When looking back at last week's Corner, what the Dominicans lack is a written history of these events. In fact, there is a deep gap of modern history on the rosary, no matter what version of the story is being pushed there is a definitive number of existing writings on the Rosary.

It isn't until the writings of Bl. Alan de la Roche in the late 1400s that we read a thorough version of the tradition of the Blessed Virgin instructing Dominic. That's nearly a 240-year gap! Poor record-keeping is the running joke in Dominican circles! De la Roche is sadly targeted as the real author of the Rosary. For those strict historians who make no room for circumstance, he is the standard benchmark for showing a historical relation of the Rosary to Dominic.

That's a lot to think through because I was always informed/taught that St. Dominic formulated the Rosary. But here is what we do have: we see zero evidence of anything that resembles the Rosary prior to Saint Dominic, and an explosion of Rosary use in the time immediately after him.

Multiple recitations of shorter Christian prayers were a general practice of Christians for centuries before Dominic. No place was this more evident than in England, where a "belt of pater noster" (Our Fathers) was to be prayed at funerals, and in Paris, where historians have laid out the manufacturers of these apparent strings of beads or knots. I didn't know this until I did more detailed research on the Rosary. What we do not find, however, is much of any recitation of the Angelic Salutation (the Hail Mary), benediction of the Trinity, the creed, or meditation on the life of Christ in a structure. And these are the core prayers of the Holy Rosary - it is as much a teaching apparatus as it is a devotion of faith.

Jean Mabillon, a French Benedictine monk of the seventeenth century, was a famed "compiler" - a fancy word for historian. He records in his Acta Ordinis S. Benedicti multiple ordinances of bishops of Dominic's time that instruct the faithful to pray using the Angelic Salutation and the Apostle's Creed in successive repetition - and not as a means of replacing the Our Father, but to support it, since many groups of the time, like the Cathars, were sowing seeds of doubt about the Incarnation. -Catholic.com

We will continue to "investigate" the controversial history of the Rosary next week. I know! I know! BUT I just have SO much to share with ya'll! Enjoy this glorious weather and praise the Painter of this creation that we are blessed with!



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

JUBILEE YEAR 2026

*Francis knew he must serve only God,
so he stripped naked in the town square,
and declared that his father may own all his clothes,
but he belonged to God.*

*Francis began his now-famous life of service
naked and penniless, trusting only in God
for food, clothing, and shelter.*

*St. Francis of Assisi
1181 - 1226*



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today Jesus says: "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." When God is the center of our lives there is no problem with giving others their due. Through your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you are helping your neighbor who is hungry, hopeless and frightened to know that they belong to God.

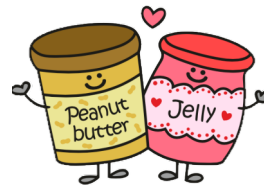
Have you considered answering the call to serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul? Contact Debbie Eberhardt at 865-312-0141 for more information.

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 OCTOBER "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY



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.



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 shoe-box 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.



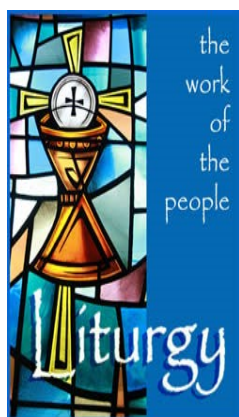


OCIA AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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.

For more information please contact Deacon Jim:
901-493-2123 or sfadeacon7717@gmail.com.



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES QUARTERLY SIGN-UPS FOR NOVEMBER, DECEMBER AND JANUARY

It is time for Liturgical Ministries signup! The signup sheets are on the counter in Shea Hall. Please take a few minutes after Mass this weekend and next to sign up for your ministry/ministries.

If you would like more information about our Liturgical Ministries, please check out our website, the bulletin board in Shea Hall or contact one of our ministry heads:

Lectors	Martha Frink	865-556-4684	marthafrink00@gmail.com
EMHC*	Karen Messenger	225-572-9400	kommessenger@gmail.com
Ushers	Paul Czerniewski	847-877-7347	paul.czerniewski@gmail.com
Sacristans	Kathy Meyerkord	630-698-5563	kmmeyerkord@gmail.com
Altar Servers	Dan Meyerkord	708-846-4144	dkam27@sbcglobal.net

* Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

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



*"Go perseveringly to the Tabernacle,
either bodily or in your heart,
so as to feel safe and calm
but also in order to feel loved...
and to love."*

- St. Josemaría Escrivá
The Forge
1902 - 1975



VOLUNTEER RECEPTIONIST NEEDED

Catholic Charities of East Tennessee is seeking a volunteer receptionist to assist in the Office of Immigration Services. Volunteer shifts are a minimum of 3 hours and you can choose days and times that fit your availability.

Apply online to join our volunteer team at CCETN.ORG/VOLUNTEER.

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
11/2/26	All Souls Day Mass with Bishop Mark Beckman - 4:00 PM Holy Cross Cemetery - Lenoir City	Online: dioknox.org/events Scan: QR code on poster in Shea Hall E-Mail: N/A
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

*"Fundamental to Christianity is the distinction
between what belongs to Caesar and what belongs to God,
in other words, the distinction between Church and State."*

- Pope Benedict XVI

SAINTS BE PRAISED!

October 19 Sts. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs
October 20 St. Paul of the Cross, Priest
October 22 St. John Paul II, Pope
October 23 St. John of Capistrano, priest
October 24 St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop