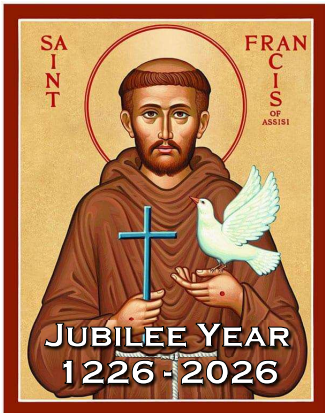




OCTOBER 4, 2026 SOLEMNITY OF THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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 & GROUNDS Ilene Rainwater
DEACONDc. Jim Schmall	FACILITIES David Girard
OFFICE MANAGERSKatrina Allocco & Lesa Schmall	SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE JoAnne Romer-Aylward
BOOKKEEPER Kathleen Halligan	PASTORAL CARE Suzie Fay
LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTORJoAnne Romer-Aylward	ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP Camilla Sorrell
DIR. OF RELIGIOUS ED.Julie Dew	COLUMBARIUM Bob 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 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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon 10/5 8:30 AM **COMMUNION SERVICE**
Tue 10/6 8:30 AM **COMMUNION SERVICE**
Wed 10/7 **NO MORNING MASS or COMMUNION SERVICE**
Thu 10/8 8:30 AM **COMMUNION SERVICE**
Fri 10/9 8:30 AM Rosalie Eberhardt

Sat 10/10 4:00 PM Natalie & Joseph Watson;
Sun 10/11 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 Mike Girard.* 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 10/5 9:00 AM Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue 10/6 6:00 PM OCIA - PRC
Wed 10/7 5:00 PM SVDP - Shea Hall
Thu 10/8
Fri 10/9
Sat 10/10 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
 5:00 PM SVdP Open House - PRC
Sun 10/11 9:00 AM Sunday Mass
 10:00 AM SVdP Open House - PRC

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Week of 9-27-2026

Actual Weekly Offertory	\$ 3,165.00
Budgeted Weekly Offertory	3,634.62
Weekly Surplus/(Deficit)	(469.62)
YTD Actual Offertory	51,090.70
YTD Budgeted Offertory	47,250.06
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)	3,840.64



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Today the Church gives us Saint Francis of Assisi not only to admire, but also to follow. We often picture him with birds, enjoying nature and speaking about peace. These are important parts of his story, but Jesus Christ was the center of his life - poor, crucified, risen, and alive. Francis loved creation because he loved its Creator. He let the Cross change his heart and make him new.

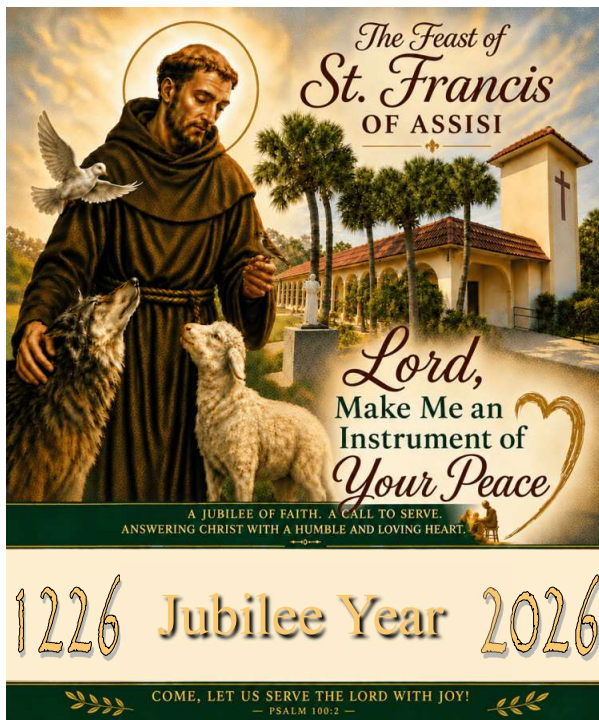
Sirach speaks of a servant of God who made the sanctuary strong and shone like the morning star, the full moon, and the sun over the Temple. These bright images help us understand Saint Francis. When Christ told him, "Rebuild my Church," Francis first repaired a building. Later, he understood that Christ was asking him to help renew the whole Church through humility, poverty, and praise. Francis did not shine by his own power. Like the moon, he reflected the light of God. When we give our lives to the Lord, we too can strengthen the Church and show Christ's light to the world.

That is why Saint Paul's words fit this celebration so well: "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." People often judge life by success, praise, possessions, or security. Paul knew that none of these things can save us. Francis learned the same lesson. As a young man, he wanted honor and success. Christ slowly taught him that true greatness does not come from making ourselves important. Francis became free when he stopped trying to build an impressive life and began to receive his life from Christ.

The psalm puts this freedom into words: "You are my inheritance, O Lord." Francis could give up possessions because he had found his true treasure. Christian poverty does not mean that material things are bad or that suffering is good. It means being able to say, "What I own does not own me. My value does not depend on my possessions. The Lord is enough for me." When God is our greatest treasure, we can receive with thanks, share without fear, and care for the earth as God's gift.

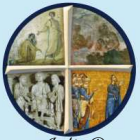
In the Gospel, Jesus says to all who are tired and burdened, "Come to me, and I will give you rest." Francis took this invitation to heart. Jesus did not remove every difficulty from his life. Francis still faced sickness, misunderstanding, disappointment, and pain. But he learned that rest does not mean having no burdens. It means carrying our burdens with Christ. A yoke joins two together. When we take the yoke of Jesus, we do not walk alone. We walk beside the One who is gentle and humble of heart.

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a special Franciscan Jubilee Year to commemorate 800 years since the death of St. Francis of Assisi. During this year, which ends on January 10, 2027, we are invited to undertake a global spiritual journey of renewal, peace, and reconciliation. And to undertake a rediscovery of the Franciscan values of simplicity, fraternity, care for creation, and peace. During this anniversary year, may we learn again to trust in the Cross, to treasure the Lord above all things, and to walk with Jesus. Then our lives can also become a song of praise, bringing Christ's light and healing to the Church and the world. Amen.



CATECHISM

CORNER



BY: Julie Dew

OCTOBER - THE MONTH OF MARY AND THE ROSARY

Hello St. Francis of Assisi and hello October! During the month of October, the Church concentrates on the beautiful prayer(s) of the Rosary. Pope Leo XIII personally instituted this practice in an Encyclical on September 1, 1883, in which he greatly instructed the faithful to dedicate the month of October to the Queen of the Holy Rosary. So, during the month of October the "Corner" will concentrate on the Rosary and the different questions concerning this lovely devotion.

One of the comments I receive from non-Catholics is that the Rosary is not Bible based and it is meaningless repetition of prayers. So, this Corner I would like to show the Bible passages corresponding to each mystery of the Rosary, which can **enhance** your meditation and prayer experience plus prove the Rosary **is** Bible based.

Joyful Mysteries (Prayed on Mondays and Saturdays)

- 1.) The Annunciation: Luke 1:26-38
- 2.) The Visitation: Luke 1:39-45
- 3.) The Nativity: Luke 2:6-20
- 4.) The Presentation: Luke 2:22-39
- 5.) The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple: Luke 2:41-51

Luminous Mysteries (Prayed on Thursdays)

- 1.) The Baptism of Jesus: Matthew 3:13-17
- 2.) The Wedding Feast at Cana: John 2:1-11
- 3.) The Proclamation of the Kingdom: Mark 1:14-15
- 4.) The Transfiguration: Matthew 17:1-8
- 5.) The Institution of the Eucharist: Matthew 26:26-29

Sorrowful Mysteries (Prayed on Tuesdays and Fridays)

- 1.) The Agony in the Garden: Luke 22:39-46
- 2.) The Scourging at the Pillar: John 19:1
- 3.) The Crowning with Thorns: Matthew 27:27-31
- 4.) The Carrying of the Cross: John 19:17
- 5.) The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus: Luke 23:33-46

Glorious Mysteries (Prayed on Wednesdays and Sundays)

- 1.) The Resurrection: Luke 24:1-6
- 2.) The Ascension: Acts 1:9-11
- 3.) The Descent of the Holy Spirit: Acts 2:1-4
- 4.) The Assumption of Mary: (Traditionally not directly cited in Scripture, but often associated with Revelation 12:1)
- 5.) The Coronation of Mary: (Also traditionally not directly cited, but linked to her role as Queen of Heaven, see Revelation 12:1)



These passages can be read before each mystery during the Rosary, helping to deepen your reflection and connection to the events in the life of Jesus and Mary. So, when someone says the Rosary is meaningless repetition and is not Bible based, show them this list which shows the life of Jesus in "those empty beads." Next week a little history on the Rosary! Have a wonderful week St. Francis!



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The good news of the Gospel is that all we need to do is let God tend us and bring us to produce good fruit. All we need do is be faithful; God will take care of the rest. Please help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to bring the love and mercy of Jesus to those who feel left out and abandoned.

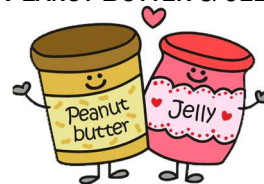
Have you considered answering the call to serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul? Contact Debbie Eberhardt at 865-312-0141 for more information.

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



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



ST. FRANCIS WORDS OF WISDOM
JUBILEE YEAR 2026

*Praise and bless my Lord,
and give him thanks and serve him with great humility*

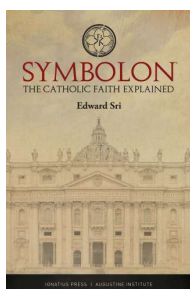
*St. Francis of Assisi
1181 - 1226*



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 sfadeacon7717@gmail.com.



SECOND COLLECTION - OCTOBER 10 & 11 DIOCESAN DEACON FORMATION PROGRAM

Please be generous in supporting our Diocesan Deacon Formation Program on October 10th and 11th. Our diocese is greatly blessed with over 100 deacons, 24 of whom were ordained in 2022. Your donation will assist not only with the ongoing formation and development of our deacons now serving in the diocese, but will also help with funding the instruction of the 13 men who began their five-year process of formation in 2022 and will be ordained, God willing, in 2027.

Deacons are ordained to the service of the Bishop, his priests, and the people of God. They are a bridge between the sanctuary and the world in which they love. They bring the altar to the neighborhood and bring the needs of the neighborhood to the altar. They teach and help organize charitable resources within the parish and diocese. They bring the Gospel and the gift of themselves to the soup kitchens, the food banks, prisons, hospitals and wherever else a need exists as well as to the parish they are assigned to. Thank you for your support and generosity.

DEACON FORMATION



BY: DAVID QUINN

BECOMING A DEACON – CHURCH HISTORY

We had the pleasure of covering 2,000 years of Church history over two formation weekends. We had already learned a good deal about the Church Fathers from our Patristics weekends so this part of Church history basically covered from 350 AD to current times. We went through each of the Church Councils as well as the wars that plagued the Papal Nations. We of course spent a good bit of time on the Reformation movement. We paid particular attention to the Church's history in the United States. We saw the growth of the Church from the eastern portion of the US into the mid-west and west as the nation expanded and missionaries wanted to expose more people to God's Mass. We finished with a focus on Vatican II, the last council the Church has conducted. It was unique in that it was not convened to battle any sort of heresy but to address the Church's role in modern society. There are key documents that came out of Vatican II, like Lumen Gentium and Dei Verbum, which reemphasized the Church's key beliefs.

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



*"Realize
that you may gain more
in a quarter of an hour of prayer
before the Blessed Sacrament
than in all other
practices of the day."*

*- St. Alphonsus Liguori
1696 - 1787*



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

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


Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM

*All the science of the Saints
is included in these two things:
To do, and to suffer.
And whoever had done these two things best,
has made himself most saintly.*

- St. Francis de Sales
1567 - 1622


ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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



SAINTS BE PRAISED!

October 5	St. Faustina Kowalska, Virgin
October 6	Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest
October 6	St. Bruno, Priest
October 7	Blessed Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin
October 7	Our Lady of the Rosary
October 9	St. Denis, Bishop and Companions, Martyrs
October 9	St. John Leonardi, Priest