November 1, 2026
All Saints

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)
Sunday 9:00AM
The Rosary is prayed 35 minutes before each Weekend Mass

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
Deacon.....Dc. Jim Schmall
Office Managers.....Katrina Allocco & Lesa Schmall
Bookkeeper.....Kathleen Halligan
Liturgy/Music Director.....JoAnne Romer-Aylward
Dir. of Religious Ed.....Julie Dew
OCIA.....Dc. Jim Schmall
Art & Environment.....Michele 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 & Socials Team (WEST).....All Parishioners

Parish Associations:

St. Vincent de Paul Society: Gloria Peifer
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 **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	**11/2**	8:30 AM	Jack Troupe ✝
Tue	**11/3**	8:30 AM	Virginia Ann Welsh ✝
Wed	**11/4**		**NO MORNING MASS**
Thu	**11/5**	8:30 AM	Alison Fichter ✝
Fri	**11/6**	8:30 AM	Nicholas C. Provenzo ✝
Sat	**11/7**	4:00 PM	Peter & Mildred Malito ✝
Sun	**11/8**	9:00 AM	Catherine Pham Thi Huynh ✝ & Jude Thaddeus Huyng Ngoc Tho ✝

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, Tim Trudeau, Kelly Headrick

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: 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	**11/2**	9:00 AM	Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue	**11/3**	6:00 PM	OCIA - PRC
Wed	**11/4**	5:00 PM	SVdP - Shea Hall
Thu	**11/5**		
Fri	**11/6**		
Sat	**11/7**	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	**11/8**	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Week of 10-25-2026

Actual Weekly Offertory	$ 3,050.00
Budgeted Weekly Offertory	3,634.62
Weekly Surplus/(Deficit)	(584.62)
YTD Actual Offertory	65,565.70
YTD Budgeted Offertory	61,788.54
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)	3,777.16

ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

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



All Christmas Merchandise through November



All Saints Day 2026

This gospel, the Beatitudes, may be one of the most familiar in all of scripture**.** Its litany of what it means to be "blessed" can be seen as the ultimate blueprint for living the Christian life. It is a roadmap that shows us: *This is how you become a saint.*

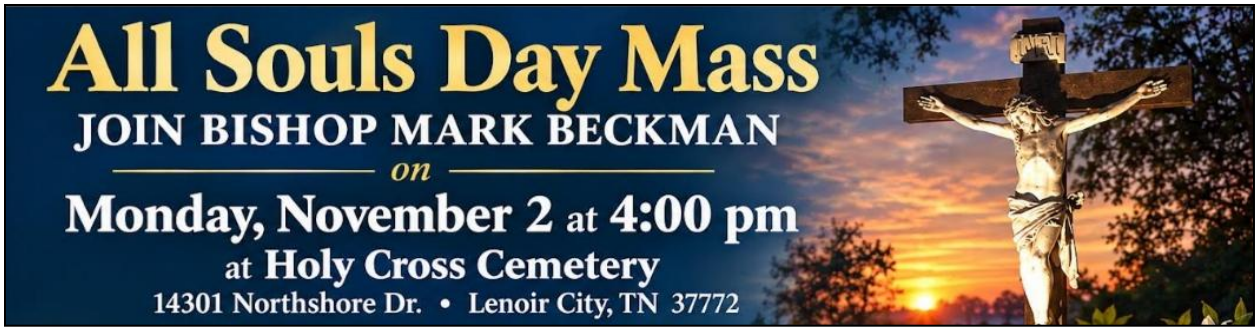
But do we really understand what that means? As we mark this All Saints Day, it is tempting to put saints, literally, on a pedestal. Just look around this church. We see saints in stained glass, in wood, in marble. They are plaster figures we put on a shelf and decorate with flowers or adorn with halos. We have some for sale in our gift shop, (excuse the shameless plug), and we collect them in holy cards and venerate them in icons. But to be fair if we just think of the saints as something merely decorative - it risks making this feast seem unnecessary. This day is necessary. We need to hear what this feast says to us. It is a summons, a call, a challenge to every one of us who is here. Looked at another way: All Saints Day is nothing less than a dare. This feast says to us: dare to be more. *Dare to be a saint.*

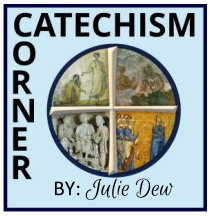
Some of us may hear that and laugh. Sainthood is a noble ambition, an ideal, but is this something we can realistically expect to attain? The short answer is yes. Because the great truth about saints, something we so easily forget, is that they were just like us: flesh and blood, strength and weakness. They were people of appetites and longings, ambitions and disappointments, vanities and eccentricities. They were simple sinners just like the rest of us. That was how they began. But that wasn't the whole story. The simple but reassuring fact is that nobody is born a saint. It's something you have to become.

Don't dismiss any of the saints. They are closer to us than we may realize. They have struggled with sin and temptation, they've walked the journey toward holiness, sometimes stumbling, sometimes falling, but always getting back up and moving on, resolving to do better, to be better, to aim higher. They worked to be what this gospel is calling us to be. To be poor in spirit. To be meek. To be merciful. To make peace. This is how we begin to become what Jesus called "blessed," and what the Church calls saints. It's a tall order. And it is nothing less than a call to greatness. But this feast day reminds us, whether we realize it or not: it can be ours. This kind of greatness is within our grasp.

All Saints Day beckons us to something beautiful. It reminds us of our great potential - the promise that lies within each of us. The promise of holiness. It is the promise that was fulfilled in the countless people we venerate this day - our models, our companions, our inspirations, our guides. All the saints. They give us blessed hope. Because they assure us again and again: no one is born a saint. But every one of us, by the grace of God, can become one.







ALL SAINTS DAY

Welcome to November St. Francis of Assisi Parishioners! This is truly my favorite time of the year. Not only because of the beautiful fall colors that we experience, but the month of November is one of my favorites because during this time of the year we remember all family and friends who have left this world and hopefully are on that journey to their heavenly home.

I admire how our "Little Church on the River" remembers our loved ones. We have the Book of the Dead in which we are afforded the opportunity to write down the names of family and friends who have passed away this past year (from November 1, 2025, to October 31, 2026). We also set up remembrance tables in the church alcove (St. Padre Pio and St. Clare area) that provide a space for parishioners to bring in pictures of loved ones who are deceased. The names written in the Book of the Dead and the photos displayed on the remembrance tables are collectively included in the Prayer of the Faithful at each Mass celebrated in our church for the entire month of November.

All Saints Day provides a perfect reminder for all of us: We observe All Saints Day, which is a holy day of obligation, by participating in Mass where we can honor all the saints in a special way during the liturgy. Many Catholics also take part in prayers, reflections, and celebratory meals, as well as visit the graves of loved ones to remember and pray for those who have passed away.

Here is what Wikipedia has to say about All Saints Day: "it is a solemnity in Catholicism and a festival in Lutheranism. The Eastern Orthodox Church and associated Eastern Catholic and Eastern Lutheran churches celebrate it on the first Sunday after Pentecost. The Syro-Malabar Church and the Chaldean Catholic Church, both of which are in communion with Rome, as well as the Church of the East, celebrate All Saints Day on the first Friday after Easter Sunday. In the Coptic Orthodox tradition, All Saints' Day is on Nayrouz, celebrated on September 11."

So, when I read that I wondered what is the difference between a solemnity, a feast and a memorial that we see on the Church calendar? There is a "key" for the Church Calendar. Let's look! A **Solemnity** is the highest rank of celebration and is identified in the calendar with an S. Easter, Christmas, All Saints Day, the Ascension, Corpus Christi, and other celebrations of events in our Lord's life on earth and certain saints are solemnities. The Gloria and Creed are always said on such days. Solemnities are like Sundays, though most of them are not holy days of obligation.

Feasts are the next rank down, and are identified with an F. They consist of the celebration of certain saints like the feast of the Archangels or most of the Apostles. The Gloria is required on these days, but not the Creed.

Memorials are the lowest rank, and are simply the celebrations of most of the saints. The Gloria is not proclaimed on these days. Obligatory memorials, identified with a capital M, must be observed. Optional memorials, identified with a lower case m may be observed but is not required.

Every time I visit Michigan, I go to my family's graves. Some people may think this is melancholic in nature, but it brings comfort to me. Even though I think of my family and friends daily and pray for their souls, this simple act reveals a deep desire for me to continue on the right path and hopefully we will all be reunited glorifying our God for all eternity!

During the month of November, I would like to share with you some saints that you may not be too familiar with and maybe a couple you are! If you have a special saint, you would like me to highlight, please don't hesitate to contact me at jdewtn2018@att.net. Have a glorious Feast Day!



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!

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.

Saints Be Praised!

November 2 The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day)
November 3 St. Martin de Porres, Religious
November 4 St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

In the Gospel today, we hear that the poor and suffering are especially blessed. As Blessed Frédéric Ozanam said, "the blessing of the poor is the blessing of God." As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, please pray for the blessing of the poor.

Have you considered answering the call to serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul? Contact Gloria Peifer 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 November "Product of the Month"

Coffee **Creamer**



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 you 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.

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

Daily Catholic Wisdom

Let listening to worldly news be bitter food for you
and let the words of saintly men
be as combs filled with honey.

- St. Basil the Great (329 - 379)
Father and Doctor of the Church



In November We Remember

We honor the dead during the month of November. Our *Names of the Dead* book is on the tables in the St. Padre Pio/St Clare alcove in the church for the month of November.

Book of the Dead: Please feel free to write the names of loved ones who have died **this past year** (November 1, 2025 - November 1, 2026) in the book so that the repose of their souls may be prayed over.

Remembrance Tables: Please bring framed photos of loved ones who have died (**NOT restricted** to this past year) and place the photos on the remembrance tables in the church alcove.

The book and framed photos will remain in church throughout the month of November. The names written in the book will be honored (collectively) at each weekend Mass throughout the month of November.

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

'Pray with the Pope' initiative

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network and the Dicastery for Communication announced January 7, 2026 the "Pray with the Pope" project. According to a press release, this is a new initiative in which the pope will share his monthly prayer intentions through both video and audio, "inviting the universal Church and all people of goodwill to unite spiritually, using the same prayer that will now be led by the pope himself."

"This initiative aims to increase the visibility of the pope's prayer intentions, using a language suitable for prayer, in new formats, so as to better reach the faithful throughout the world, especially in today's world of digital communication," the press release stated.

In the full video shared on the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network website, Pope Leo recites an original prayer written specifically for each month of the year.

POPE LEO'S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER, 2026



For The Proper Use of Wealth

Let us pray
for the proper use of wealth,
that not succumbing
to the temptation of selfishness,
it may always be put
at the service, the common good,
and solidarity of those
who have less.



St. Francis of Assisi - Jubilee Year 2026

I have been all things unholy;
If God can work through me, he can work through anyone.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Details
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
11/7/26	Frazzled At The Vineyard Diocese Chancery - 10:00 AM	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

Inspirational Quotes To Promote Devotion To Jesus in the Eucharist



"The Eucharist is a foretaste of heaven, where we will be united with God for all eternity.

It is a glimpse of the eternal banquet that awaits us."

- St. Claire of Assisi
11294 - 1253

