# November 8, 2026
# 32nd 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)
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** | **11/9** | 8:30 AM | Jack Troupe ✝ |
| **Tue** | **11/10** | 8:30 AM | Virginia Ann Welsh ✝ |
| **Wed** | **11/11** | | **NO MORNING MASS** |
| **Thu** | **11/12** | 8:30 AM | Alison Fichter ✝ |
| **Fri** | **11/13** | 8:30 AM | Nicholas C. Provenzo ✝ |
| **Sat** | **11/14** | 4:00 PM | Peter & Mildred Malito ✝ |
| **Sun** | **11/15** | 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:** The sanctuary candle is lit in honor of Luman and Celeste Terrenonne given by Mike and Barbara Polak. f 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** | **11/9** | 9:00 AM | Church and Hall Cleaning |
| **Tue** | **11/10** | 6:00 PM | OCIA - PRC |
| **Wed** | **11/11** | | |
| **Thu** | **11/12** | | |
| **Fri** | **11/13** | | |
| **Sat** | **11/14** | 4:00 PM | Vigil Mass |
| **Sun** | **11/15** | 9:00 AM | Sunday Mass |

## WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Week of 11-1-2026

| | |
|---|---|
| Actual Weekly Offertory | $5,556.00 |
| Budgeted Weekly Offertory | 3,634.62 |
| Weekly Surplus/(Deficit) | 1,921.38 |
| YTD Actual Offertory | 71,121.70 |
| YTD Budgeted Offertory | 65,423.16 |
| YTD Surplus/(Deficit) | 5,698.54 |

DEACON'S NOTES

## BEING READY, BEING ALERT, BEING RESPONSIBLE TO GOD

Be vigilant, be alert, be ready. Our readings today remind us of our need to be awake. In the Rule of St. Benedict, the founder of the Western Monasticism says to "keep death daily before your eyes." Benedict wrote the rule in 530, and Benedictines and Cistercians still live by this rule today. Benedict's rule may seem like a morbid daily reminder, but as we approach the season of Advent – a season of preparation – his wisdom makes sense.

Wisdom is seeking us, but are we aware of her? She wants to help us and free us from care, but we must be vigilant, or we will miss her. Advent is when we prepare to celebrate Jesus' arrival into this world, something we do on Christmas Day. The season also calls us to prepare room for Jesus in our own "inn," that is within ourselves. It invites us to meditate on Christ's Second Coming. And it invites us to consider the end of our earthly journey and reflect on whether we are ready for the next life.

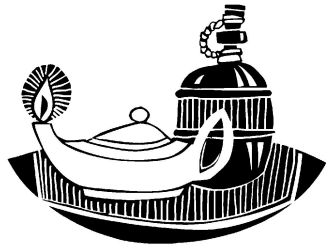
Paul tells the Thessalonians not to grieve over those who have died because in the end we all will be together. We must remember this and be consoled. When we grieve, we often lose the vigilance we need. Remembering that we will be together again is more than a happy thought. It is consolation straight from God.

The parable of the ten virgins is about vigilance not about good and evil. It is about being ready, being alert, being responsible to God. It is about our covenant with God. The ten virgins are all invited to the celebration. They are not the good and the bad, but some have more wisdom, more responsibility, they came prepared. The foolish simply did not think ahead and prepared for the eventuality of the bridegroom coming late. We can identify with this if we look at how we thought about death in the early years of life. Perhaps we did not even think much of death, especially if we were healthy and energetic. If we lost someone close to us through illness or accident, it could reminds us that we all die, but it does not necessarily remind us to be prepared for our own death. As I get older, I tend to think a lot about my own death, not with fear, but grateful to God for allowing me to live and contemplate his wonderful creation. When we think about our own death, we try to be better with others, we become more responsible with God, we prepare for that great moment.

At the end of the parable Jesus says: ´Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour;" which is the same as having the lamps lit. We must be prepared.

If we strive to live unselfishly, if we care about the interests and needs of others as well as our own, our chances of becoming members of a heavenly family with peace and joy will grow and be granted. If we are honestly vigilant and therefore aware of our responsibility before God, we will also grow in kindness and compassion. That is truly preparing us.

Taking time to pray will help us to be vigilant and prepare for our life now and in the moment to come. You might prefer to talk to God. Talking to God as you would with a family member, or a friend, will amaze you in the intimacy it brings, and in the wisdom, it yields as well. If you try it, you will find and experience that reaches into your life, blesses you, and even prepares you for giving an account when your time comes.



CATECHISM CORNER

BY: Julie Dew

## St. Kateir Tekakwitha

St. Kateri Tekakwitha (1656–1680) was the first native American canonized as a saint, known for her deep faith, devotion, and perseverance in the face of adversity. Kateri Tekakwitha was born in 1656 in the Mohawk village of Ossernenon, in present-day Auriesville, New York. Her father was a Mohawk chief, and her mother was an Algonquin woman who had been captured and assimilated into the Mohawk tribe. At age four, Kateri contracted smallpox, which killed her parents and brother, leaving her with facial scars and impaired eyesight. She was subsequently raised by her uncle, the chief of a Mohawk clan, who opposed christian teachings but could not prevent Jesuit missionaries from visiting the village.

At age 11, Kateri encountered three Jesuit missionaries, whose words and example deeply influenced her. She was inspired by their faith and began to pursue a life of devotion. At age 19, she converted to Catholicism, taking the name Catherine (rendered Kateri in Mohawk) and pledging a vow of chastity, dedicating herself entirely to Jesus Christ. Her decision was met with hostility from her family and community, including harassment and threats, prompting her to flee approximately 200 miles to the Jesuit mission at Sault Saint Louis (Kahnawake), near Montreal.

At Kahnawake, Kateri became known as the “lily of the Mohawks” for her piety, kindness, and dedication to prayer. She lived a life of penance, prayer, and service, often performing acts of self-discipline such as placing thorns on her sleeping mat. Her devotion and virtuous life inspired those around her, and she became a model of faith and perseverance.

Kateri Tekakwitha died on April 17, 1680, at the age of 24 following a long illness, which is believed to have been tuberculosis, compounded by her fragile health and rigorous spiritual practices. Her life and the accounts of Jesuit missionaries documenting her faith and suffering contributed to her cause for sainthood, which began in 1932. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1980. In 2012, Pope Benedict XVI canonized her, making her the first indigenous person of North America to be recognized as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church. She is venerated as a patron saint of ecology and is celebrated on July 14 in the United States and April 17 in Canada.



St. Kateri Tekakwitha is remembered for her unwavering faith, courage in the face of persecution, and her commitment to a life of purity and prayer. Her story continues to inspire native and non-native Catholics alike, highlighting the power of devotion, resilience, and spiritual dedication.

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha is the patron saint of ecology, the environment, Native Americans, people in exile, orphans, and those ridiculed for their piety.

*– From cccb.ca*




## 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.



## St. Clare Gift Shop

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




All Christmas Merchandise
through November

## The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

In today's Gospel Jesus challenges us to "stay awake" by taking time to seriously look at ourselves, the priorities of our lives, and how we are growing spiritually. Ask yourself "What would Jesus Christ do?" and then put your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul poor box so that those who are suffering will be able to celebrate Thanksgiving.

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

OCIA
Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

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

*Grant me, O Lord my God,*
*a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you,*
*conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you*
*and a hope of finally embracing you.*

*- St. Thomas Aquinas (1225 - 1274)*
*Priest, Confessor 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.



## Angel Giving Tree 2026

Our Angel Tree Giving Tree for 2026, benefitting the foster children of Blount and surrounding counties, will be available in Shea Hall on **November 14, 2026**.Next weekend please consider taking a tag or two from the tree and filling the wishes of a foster child in need.

If you would like to participate, but would rather not shop, there is the option of donating by check made out to the Blount County Foster Association, or with a gift card.

Gifts can be wrapped or not, whichever you prefer. The gifts need to be brought in by

**Sunday, December 6th**

to allow for time to get them to the children. Feel free to contact Laura Rapien (865-258-2022) with any questions. St. Francis has always been so generous and supportive of our foster children and on behalf of the children and our foster association, sincere thanks to all of you for your help with the Angel Tree.

**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

*Be patient in trials,watchful in prayer, and never cease working.*

# Upcoming Events

| Date | Event | Details |
|---|---|---|
| 11/7/26 | Frazzled At The Vineyard<br>Diocese Chancery - 10:00 AM | Online: dioknox.org/events<br>Scan: QR code on poster in Shea Hall<br>E-Mail: N/A |
| 12/6/26 | Parish Christmas Party<br>Tremont Lodge - Townsend<br>5:00 - 8:00 PM | Online: N/A<br>E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com<br>Phone: 865-448-6070 |
| 12/19/26 | Parish Advent Mission (Shea Hall)<br>with Fr. Julian Peters, OSB | Online: N/A<br>E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com<br>Phone: 865-448-6070 |

## Inspirational Quotes To Promote Devotion To Jesus in the Eucharist




*"The Eucharist*
*is not celebrated only at the altar,*
*but also in daily life,*
*where it is possible to experience*
*everything as an offering*
*and giving of thanks."*

*- Pope Leo XIV*
*General Audience*
*August 6, 2025*




image from pngtree.com

## Saints Be Praised!

| | |
|---|---|
| November 9 | The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica |
| November 10 | St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church |
| November 11 | St. Martin of Tours, Bishop |
| November 12 | St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr |
| November 13 | St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin |

## A Calling to Serve: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion & Homebound Ministry

Have you ever considered becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion but hesitated because you felt you weren't worthy enough? Perhaps you feel that someone who serves in this ministry should be a saint or someone who has achieved a greater degree of holiness? No doubt, this ministry is a sacred responsibility, and it is good to recognize the holiness of the Eucharist. But it is also especially important to remember:

1. **God does not ask us to be perfect before we serve Him.** The Church does not require Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to be canonized saints or to have achieved spiritual perfection. All Catholics are called to grow in holiness throughout their lives. St. Paul reminds us in Romans 3:23 that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Yet God continues to call people to serve Him. Think of the apostles themselves. They were imperfect men who made mistakes, struggled with fear, and sometimes misunderstood Jesus. Nevertheless, He called them to serve Him.
2. **He asks us to serve with faith, humility, reverence, and love.** This ministry **is not** about being holier than others or believing we are more deserving. It is about serving Christ and His people with reverence, a sincere Catholic faith, respect for the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and a willingness to fulfill this sacred responsibility faithfully.
3. **We are all called to holiness, but none of us are perfect.** We are all sinners who depend on God's mercy and grace. Our call to holiness is a **lifelong journey**, not a requirement that we must complete before offering our service to God. As Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, we have the privilege of assisting the priest and deacon in distributing the Body and Blood of Christ when the needs of the Church call for our assistance. At Mass, we pray, *"Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."* These words remind us that we approach the Lord **not** because we are perfect, but because we trust in His mercy and love. Our worthiness does not come from having lived a flawless life; it comes from **God's grace**, which continually calls us to conversion and holiness.

Of course, this ministry does carry responsibilities. Those who serve should be practicing Catholics in good standing, properly prepared, and willing to carry out their duties with dignity and reverence, in accordance with the Church's teachings. We are called to live our faith sincerely, to grow in holiness, and to recognize the **great privilege** of serving at the Lord's altar.

If you have ever felt drawn to this ministry but held back because you believed you were not holy enough, please consider bringing that feeling to prayer and speaking with Father Antonio or Deacon Jim. Do not assume that your imperfections automatically disqualify you from serving. A humble and willing heart, a sincere love for Jesus in the Eucharist, and a desire to serve His people are important places to begin understanding this call.

***The question is not whether we are perfect, but whether we are willing to keep growing in faith and to serve the Lord with humble and loving hearts.***




If you feel called to this ministry, we warmly encourage you to prayerfully consider it. You may discover that what you thought was a reason to hold back is actually an invitation to grow closer to Christ through service. May we always remember what a precious gift it is to serve our Lord and one another.

For more information on becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at St. Francis of Assisi please contact the ministry head Karen Kessenger at komessenger@gmail.com

# Parish Christmas Party

## Sunday, December 6, 2026

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Tremont Lodge in Townsend, TN

**$45.00 per person**

**$20.00 per child (15 years and younger)**

For more details and to reserve your spot at the party, please see the signup sheets in Shea Hall.

# Save the date!

***Advent Retreat***

***Preparing your Heart***

***Saturday, December 19th***

***9:00 AM - 3:00 PM***



Fr. Julian Peters, OSB, a monk and priest of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, currently serves as director of the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates at Saint Meinrad.

Sign up now in Shea Hall.
Details to follow.