November 15, 2026
33rd 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	**11/16**	8:30 AM	Catherine Pham Thi Huynh ✝ Jude Thaddeus Huynh Ngoc Tho ✝
Tue	**11/17**	8:30 AM	Marie Allocco ✝
Wed	**11/18**		**NO MORNING MASS**
Thu	**11/19**	8:30 AM	Catherine Pham Thi Huynh ✝ Jude Thaddeus Huynh Ngoc Tho ✝
Fri	**11/20**	8:30 AM	Shirley Keeven ✝
Sat	**11/21**	4:00 PM	Beryl Quinton ✝
Sun	**11/22**	9:00 AM	Catherine Pham Thi Huynh ✝ Jude Thaddeus Huynh 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, James Karp

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 memory of Shirley Keeven given by Laurie Trower. 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!



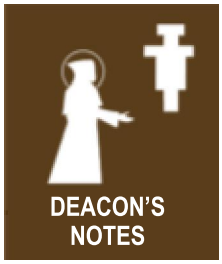
Activities This Week In Our Parish

Mon	**11/16**	9:00 AM	Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue	**11/17**	6:00 PM	OCIA - PRC
Wed	**11/18**	5:00 PM	SVdP - Shea Hall
Thu	**11/19**		
Fri	**11/20**		
Sat	**11/21**	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	**11/22**	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass

Weekly Offertory

Week of 11-8-2026

Actual Weekly Offertory	$5,350.00
Budgeted Weekly Offertory	3,634.62
Weekly Surplus/(Deficit)	1,715.38
YTD Actual Offertory	76,471.70
YTD Budgeted Offertory	69,057.78
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)	7,413.92



USE THE TALENTS GOD GIVES YOU

Today's Gospel presents us with the familiar parable of the talents. A master goes on a journey and entrusts his property to three servants. To one he gives five talents, to another two, and to another one, each according to his ability. Upon his return, he asks for an account of what they have done with what was entrusted to them. The first two servants invest their talents and double them. The third servant, driven by fear, buries his talent in the ground and returns only what he received.

At first glance, we might think this parable is about money. But Jesus is speaking about something much deeper. The "talents" represent every gift that God has entrusted to us: our faith, our abilities, our time, our opportunities, our relationships, our resources, and even our very lives. The question at the heart of this Gospel is simple: What are we doing with what God has given us?

Notice that the master does not compare the servants with one another. The servant who received two talents is praised just as highly as the servant who received five. Both hear the same words: *"Well done, good and faithful servant. Come, share your master's joy."*

God does not measure us by how much we have. He measures us by our faithfulness. Some have many gifts, others fewer. Some are called to great public responsibilities, while others are called to hidden acts of love and service. What matters is not the size of the gift but the generosity of the response.

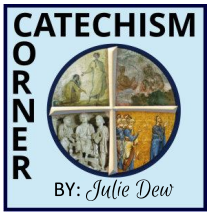
The tragedy of the third servant is not that he failed. The tragedy is that he never tried. Fear paralyzed him. He was so afraid of making a mistake that he did nothing at all. How often does that happen in our spiritual lives? We may be afraid to share our faith because others might reject us. We may hesitate to serve because we feel inadequate. We may avoid God's call because we fear failure or criticism. Fear can bury God's gifts within us. Yet throughout Scripture, God repeatedly says, "Do not be afraid." The Christian life is not meant to be lived cautiously on the sidelines. Discipleship requires courage. It requires trusting that God can work through our weaknesses and imperfections.

Saint Paul, in today's second reading, reminds us that we are "children of the light." We are called to live awake, alert, and ready for the coming of the Lord. Every day is an opportunity to use our gifts for God's glory and for the good of others.

The first reading from Proverbs gives us a beautiful example of faithful stewardship. The virtuous woman uses her gifts, energy, and wisdom not for herself alone but for her family and for those in need. Her life bears fruit because she understands that blessings are meant to be shared. This is the challenge for us today. Instead of asking, "What do I lack?" perhaps we should ask, "What has God already given me? Have I used my time wisely? Have I shared my faith with others? Have I shown kindness to those who are lonely? Have I used my talents to build God's kingdom? Have I helped those who are poor, suffering, or forgotten?"

One day each of us will stand before the Lord. He will not ask why we were not someone else. He will ask what we did with the gifts He gave us. The good news is that God has entrusted every one of us with something valuable. No one here is without gifts. No one here is without a mission. No one here is insignificant in the eyes of God.
If illness, age, or some physical incapacity hinders the use of the talents you have, accept that and incorporate it into the sufferings that Christ accepted for the salvation of the world. Your limits can become effective when incorporated into the passion and death of Jesus; your limits can, in Christ, have redemptive power. The talents you have are to be invested for God's glory, not yours.

As we approach the end of the liturgical year, the Church reminds us to live with purpose and readiness. Let us not bury our talents in fear, complacency, or indifference. Instead, let us place them at the service of God and our neighbor. And may we strive to live in such a way that when the Lord returns, we too may hear those beautiful words: **"Well done, good and faithful servant. Come, share your master's joy."** Amen.



St. Victor I and St. Irenaeus

Good and happy weekend St. Francis and welcome to the Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time! As I wrote last weekend, I would like to "talk" about some saints that you may not be too familiar with. So, this weekend, I would like to introduce you to a couple. The first one is St. Victor I, Pope and martyr. He served as the Bishop of Rome during the late second century, a time when the Church was still defining its identity and structure amid theological, social, and cultural differences among Christian communities.

St. Victor I was born in Roman Africa and became pope around 189 A.D., succeeding Pope Eleutherius. He is best known for addressing the Quartodeciman controversy, a dispute over the proper date for celebrating Easter. Christians in Asia Minor traditionally observed Easter on the 14th day of Nisan, the same date as the Jewish Passover, regardless of the day of the week. In contrast, the Roman Church and many others insisted that Easter should always be celebrated on Sunday, the day of Christ's Resurrection.

Seeking unity, Victor I called for councils and urged uniformity in practice. When some Eastern bishops resisted, he initially attempted to excommunicate them, though his decision was not universally enforced. Despite tensions, the controversy ultimately contributed to a growing awareness of the importance of unity in liturgical practice across the Church.

Victor also played an important role in strengthening the authority of the Bishop of Rome as a point of reference for doctrinal and disciplinary unity among Christians throughout the empire. He died around 199 A.D., and although the historical record of his martyrdom is uncertain, he is traditionally honored among the early martyrs of the Church. His legacy is closely tied to the Church's ongoing effort to balance diversity with unity in the practice of the Faith.

St. Victor is the patron saint of torture victims, and he is also invoked as the patron of cabinetmakers, millers, sick children, and against lightning. His feast day is July 28th. St. Victor, pray for us.

The second Saint that we will discuss is St. Irenaeus. He was a bishop, theologian, and martyr of the second century who helped define and protect the Christian Faith during its earliest years. Born around 125 in Asia Minor, he studied under St. Polycarp of Smyrna, himself a disciple of the Apostle John. This direct link to the Apostles gave Irenaeus a deep understanding of the apostolic tradition and a commitment to preserving it. Irenaeus was appointed Bishop of Lyons in Gaul. At this time, Gnosticism and other heresies were spreading, claiming secret knowledge and distorting the teachings of Christ. He wrote extensively to counter these errors in his five-book work Against Heresies. In it, he rejected the errors of Gnosticism and supported the authority of the Church guided by Apostolic succession.

Irenaeus also emphasized the role of Scripture and the harmony between the Old and New Testaments, showing how God's plan unfolded through history. He taught that salvation comes through Christ and that the Church, faithfully transmitting the Apostolic teaching, guides us to the Truth.

Even under the threat of persecution, St. Irenaeus remained steadfast. Tradition holds that he eventually suffered martyrdom around 202. St. Irenaeus is the patron saint of Church unity, defenders of the faith, and those combating heresy and his feast day is June 28th. St. Irenaeus was named a Doctor of the Church in 2022. His writings and teachings provided foundational Christian orthodoxy, linking the Apostolic age and the early Church Fathers and influencing generations of theologians. - *ewtnmission.com*

St. Irenaeus, pray for us! Hope you enjoyed these Saints and you are looking forward to next weeks'! Have a most wonderful week!

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.

Signup now in Shea Hall.
Details to follow.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The good news of today's Gospel is the extravagance of what is being given us. All we need do is be faithful in "small matters." The cost of fidelity has no comparison to the reward given. When you give to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, you are sharing God's extravagant love.

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**



St. Vincent de Paul Gives Sweatshirts to Townsend Elementary School

On October 15th, St. Vincent de Paul passed out sweatshirts to ALL the TES students and staff. Just in time for the colder weather! The gray sweatshirts display their new school tiger logo. The students were very excited and happy! So much that many put them on immediately!













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 Giving Tree for 2026, benefiting the foster children of Blount and surrounding counties, is now up in Shea Hall. 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 Giving 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

"*It is in giving that we receive.*"

Upcoming Events

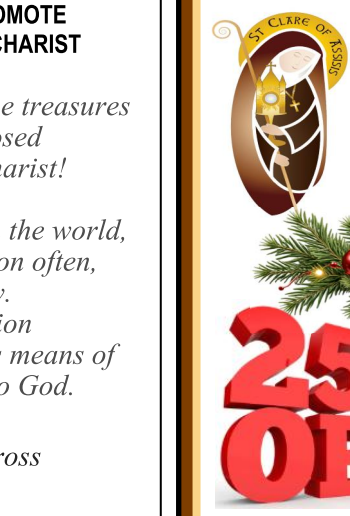
Date	Event	Details
12/6/26	Parish Christmas Party Tremont Lodge - Townsend 5:00 - 8:00 PM	Online: N/A E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070
12/19/26	Parish Advent Mission (Shea Hall) with Fr. Julian Peters, OSB	Online: N/A E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070

Inspirational Quotes To Promote Devotion To Jesus In The Eucharist



"How wonderful are the treasures
which are enclosed
in the divine Eucharist!
I exhort you,
even though you live in the world,
to receive Communion often,
but with piety.
Holy Communion
is the most efficacious means of
uniting one's self to God.

- St Paul of the Cross
1694 - 1775





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 Messenger at komessenger@gmail.com

DEACON FORMATION

BY: DAVID QUINN

BECOMING A DEACON – TRINITY, SALVATION, AND MARY

After being snowed out in January 2025, we reconvened to talk about the Trinity, Salvation, and Mary. The Trinity is one of the hardest concepts to explain and yet is the center for almost all Christianity. It is also one of the areas that has led to some of the deepest heresies in the Church.

We learned of the key spots in the Old and New Testaments that tell us there is a Trinity. For instance, Genesis 1:26 says "Let us make Man to our image and likeness." Who are the "us" and "our" that are referred to? It is the Trinity. The reason we get to know the Trinity is to see each person's role in our salvation.

We learned how the love of the Father for His Son is exchanged through the Holy Spirit. We focused on the Son's role in salvation and how through salvation we are to be conformed to Christ. And by being conformed to Christ, we can come into the same relationship the Son has with the Father.

The discussions on Mary centered on her conception and assumption. Mary is often referred to as the New Ark of the Covenant. Just like the original Ark of the Covenant, which required purification before God's presence could be taken up there, so too Mary had to be purified before she could carry God's presence in the world. Her assumption into heaven as body and soul reinforced prophecy of the resurrection we all will enjoy someday.

DECEMBER 5 & 6 SECOND COLLECTION - MAINTENANCE FUND

Your donations made to this fund will help pay for the rising cost of maintaining our aging buildings and to continue with preventative maintenance. This would not be possible without your generous contributions to the Maintenance Fund! Thank you for your support!

Visitors to our beautiful little church on the Little River frequently ask where their donation would be of the most use. We are very thankful for our visitor's financial contributions, especially during our lean winter months when tourism typically declines. This Maintenance Fund would be a great choice for making your donation!

To contribute to this fund, please place your pre-printed envelope in the **second** collection basket the weekend of December 5th and 6th. If you do not have a pre-printed envelope, you may place cash or check in the **second** collection basket.

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



If you choose to mail in your donation, please mark on the envelope or check that it is for the "Maintenance" Fund and send it to:

St. Francis of Assisi Church (Maintenance Fund Contribution)
7717 River Rd. Townsend, TN 37882

Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM

Let us help and commemorate [the dead]. If Job's sons were purified by their father's sacrifice (Job 1:5), why would we doubt that our offerings for the dead bring them some consolation?

- St. John Chrysostom (347 - 407)
Bishop and Doctor of the Church