



St. Francis of Assisi Parish

December 13, 2015 • Third Sunday of Advent

From the Pastor's Desk

Fewer than two weeks until Christmas... Third Sunday of Advent... Gaudete Sunday, or the Sunday to Rejoice! Time is running out, and some of us are beginning to panic... with everything still to get accomplished. I offer some thoughts, or "admonitions," today that might be useful during these last frantic days until Christmas.

Shout for joy! Be glad and exult! Is there any reason to shout for joy? Come up with three reasons.

The Lord has removed the judgment against you! *Do I really believe that? Do I really believe that God is merciful beyond all human understanding? What will it take for me to embrace this mercy?*

Fear not, don't be discouraged! *Why am I afraid? What's causing my discouragement today?*

God is in your midst! *Really? Is God really here? How is God concretely in my life today?*

God will sing joyfully because of you! *Give me a break! Why would God sing about me?* Come up with three reasons.

Your kindness will be known to all. *So, what? Who cares about my kindness and does it really make any difference? When **has** my kindness made a difference?*

Have no anxiety. Make your requests known to God. *Does God really care about my anxieties? Do, I turn my anxieties and worries over to God or even let God know what they are?*

The peace of God will guard your hearts and minds. *If only I knew were to find that peace. An open heart might help the peace to be found. Do I really prefer conflict and am I the cause of conflict? Am I letting God's peace guard my heart and mind?*

Share your clothes, food, and resources with those who have nothing. *Would I share what I have with Jesus? Jesus is in the poor, so what am I sharing with the poor? What do I need to do to welcome Jesus?*

John the Baptist preached Good News to the people. *Sometimes, the Good News is bad news for me. What is the bad news I need to embrace in my life? How is grace present in the bad news?*

These last several days can be a challenge as we struggle to finish up the Christmas chores. The greatest chore we

need to complete before Christmas Day that of finding time for our hearts to connect with the love that God has for us, the mercy God offers us—the joy and excitement that God shows us in God's creation. Perhaps we can refocus ourselves; our "chores" can be gifts to others through our gladness, our courage, our faith in God's presence among us, our joy, and our kindness, our freedom from worry and anxiety, our peaceful hearts, and our sense of hospitality to all God places in our path of life. This is the Good News that John the Baptist preached.

We remember the words attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: "Preach always and only use words when necessary."

For the next 10 days of Advent, I suggest that we take one of the "admonitions" listed above and let it become our advent meditation.

Until Next Week....May the Lord Give You Peace...kjl



Mass Schedule

Monday - Friday		12:10pm
Saturday Vigil		5:15pm
Sunday		7:30am 9:30am Noon
Holy Days		6:30am 12:10pm 6:30pm
Reconciliation	Saturdays, 4:00-5:00pm (or by appointment)	
Church Hours	M-Th 9:00am - 3:00pm Fri 9:00am - 1:30pm	

Is God Calling You? RCIA Inquiry

Mondays, Starting January 4

6:30 - 8:30pm

Parish Center



Is God calling you to a deeper relationship? Been coming here for awhile and want to know more? Baptized as a child but never confirmed? Perhaps this is the time to look into joining our parish family.

Inquiry is an informal opportunity to learn about the Catholic faith and explore your own questions—who is God for me, what is Baptism, what is going on during Mass, can I name and live my values in a deeper way as part of this faith community? We meet for six Mondays. Join us! For more information, contact RCIA Coordinator Dara Fout at dara9486@comcast.net or (916)548-0745.

Spiritual Practices: Starting the New Year Right!

Saturday, January 9, 2016

9:00 – 11:00 am

Brunsmann Hall



Women of all ages are invited to join us for our next conversation exploring spiritual practices we can incorporate into our daily lives. Continental breakfast will be served. There is no cost to attend, but please RSVP to st.francis.womeninc@gmail.com.

Women in Conversation (WinC) is a ministry for women of St. Francis to nurture the Spirit of God – alive, growing and abundant. Our focus is on everyday spirituality and ways that women can lead more meaningful lives. We seek guidance from the Holy Spirit, celebrate community, share stories, support one another, and honor the feminine spirit.

YOUNG ADULTS... 2nd Annual Christmas Extravaganza



Sunday, December 13

6:00 pm

Brunman Hall

Come celebrate Christmas with food, crafts, and service projects! *Sponsored by the St. Francis Young Adults Ministry. For more information, please contact Patrice*

Clemons, Young Adults Ministry Coordinator, at YoungAdults@stfrancisparish.com.

We Are Called

to Feed the Hungry and Shelter the Homeless

Our brothers and sisters who are homeless and find shelter with us every night need your generosity and prayerful support. The cold, dark days of winter are especially daunting for those who live their lives on the streets, as is this time of year with its festive, family activities. During the holiday season, particularly, many of us want to share with those who are most vulnerable among us. Please consider these opportunities:



1 night's shelter and breakfast for 1 guest:	\$5
1 night's shelter and breakfast for 4 guests:	\$20
1 week's breakfast for 1 guest:	\$10
1 week's shelter and breakfast for 1 guest:	\$35
Christmas Eve and Day Dinner for 1 guest:	\$25
Christmas Eve motel voucher for 1 guest:	\$50

Goldenrod envelopes are available in the racks in the back of church and may be placed in the collection basket or mailed to the Parish Center.

Breakfast Ministry Food Items

(Bring to the church on the first Sunday of the month or bring to the Parish Center during the week)

We can always use *individual serving packets* of oatmeal, cereal bars (chewy), cheese and crackers, nuts, cocoa; also cans of coffee—regular and decaf; and large boxes of cereal. We supplement these items with our purchases of cheese sticks, fresh fruit and milk. Financial donations are welcome and appreciated to cover these purchases. We **cannot** use canned goods, perishable items, or clothing. For more information, contact Galen (443-8084 x114).

Winter Needs for our Step Ministry Guests and Those without Shelter

The cold, wet winter days and nights in Sacramento are here. While we see the rain as a blessing, our brothers and sisters who are sleeping outside are now experiencing even more difficulty in their days and nights in the cold and rain. We are asking for your help for three things that they desperately need to help make their days more bearable: sleeping bags, wool or fleece blankets that are easy to carry, and ponchos to help keep them dry. Your donation would help not only our Step guests, but also those who come to our gate daily, seeking assistance. Any item, or items, could be dropped off at the parish center during weekly office hours.

For more information contact Galen: 443-8084 x114 or GalenU@stfrancisparish.com.

Advent Reconciliation Service

Wednesday, December 16

6:30 pm
in the Church



Early on, when asked by a reporter “Who are you?” Pope Francis responded simply, “I am a sinner.” By acknowledging this reality, Pope Francis also fully embraces and experiences personally the generous, freely-offered, always present mercy and healing of God. And, it is easy to see that his awareness of God’s mercy in his own life has become a hallmark of his leadership of the Church.

That is what we are all called to as baptized Christians —as followers of Jesus—a life of ongoing conversion and of extending the mercy and healing of God that we experience, to our family, our workplace, our faith community, our world.

On Wednesday, December 16, at 6:30 pm, our parish will celebrate the communal form of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As pilgrims on the journey of faith, we will pray together, reflect on Scripture together, acknowledge the reality of sin in our lives, and then experience the transforming power of God’s mercy and healing individually and in our faith community. We are grateful for the presence of several priests so that everyone will have an opportunity for individual confession and absolution. Celebrating this sacrament as a community strengthens our baptismal commitment to be faithful disciples of Jesus.

In this Advent season of hopeful expectation, everyone is invited to taste and see the goodness of God. If it has been some time since you celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation, be encouraged to join in. There is no sin so great that it cannot be touched by God’s compassion. There is no time period away that prevents anyone from starting anew to be reconciled with God and the community.

COMING SOON!

Grief Support Group

First Session, Saturday, January 16
St. Clare Chapel, 1:00 - 3:00 pm



Join us for the first session of a six-week program offered in our St. Francis Parish community and facilitated by parishioners Ann Dufour and Suzanne Sanchez. Anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one is welcome to participate.

Church Tour

Sunday, December 27
Following Noon Mass



The scaffolding goes back up the next day, so this will be the only church tour until after the restoration is completed in February. Come and bring your family and friends that may be here for the holidays, and learn all about our church from our fantastic docents!

Join Our Christmas Tradition

Be a part of our parish tradition as we proclaim and enact the Gospel Narrative of Jesus’ birth during our 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Mass.



We need children grades 4-8 to participate as narrators for the Gospel and as “actors” to pantomime the parts of Mary, Joseph, shepherds, and angels. Costumes are provided.

We need adults to participate, as well, in order to bring the incredible story to our parish in a fun way.

Schedule

Practice: Saturday, December 19
10:00am - Noon in the church

Final Practice: Monday, December 21
3:00 - 4:30 pm in the church

Christmas Eve: Arrive at the church at 2:30 pm

If you have questions, please contact Samantha Bean: samanthambean@gmail.com

Taize Prayer Service

December 16
6:00 pm
Parish Center Chapel



Please note that our Taizé Prayer Service will be held in the Parish Center Chapel for this coming Wednesday.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE SCHEDULE

Advent Reconciliation Service	6:30 pm	DEC 16
Christmas Eve		DEC 24
Mass	4:00 pm (Family Mass) • 7:00 pm Midnight (Concert starts at 11:00 pm)	
Christmas Day Mass		DEC 25
Mass	9:00 am	
Feast of the Holy Family		DEC 26/27
Mass	5:15 pm (Sat) • 7:30 and 9:30 am, and Noon (Sun)	
Mary, Mother of God		DEC 31
Vigil Mass	6:30pm	
Mass	10:00am	JAN 1
Feast of the Epiphany		JAN 2/3
Mass	5:15 pm (Sat) • 7:30 and 9:30 am, and Noon (Sun)	
Baptism of the Lord		JAN 9/10
Mass	5:15 pm (Sat) • 7:30 and 9:30 am, and Noon (Sun)	



YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

REGULAR GIVING (Offertory)

(Includes direct deposit and credit card donations)

November 29	\$9,715
Year-to-date (7/1/15 - 12/05/15)	\$272,183
Last year	<u>267,217</u>
\$ Change	\$4,966
% Change	1.9%

DESIGNATED DONATIONS

(Includes direct deposit and online donations)

Covenant of Sharing One-Time Donations

To date: \$29,245

Building Fund

Donations (7/1/15-12/05/15)	\$25,354
Last year	<u>26,090</u>
\$ Change	-\$736
% Change	-2.8%

Step Ministry

Donations to date (7/1/2015 - 12/05/15)	\$16,799
Last year	<u>16,400</u>
\$ Change	\$399
% Change	2.4%

Francis House (December 2015) \$1,038

ONE Campaign

Our Share (7/1/2015 - 12/05/15)	\$5,025
Total (campaign to date)	\$62,076

Thank you for your generosity!

Retirement Fund for Religious

Support elderly religious. A parishioner writes, "As a Catholic school student from grades K-12, I was formed to be the person I am by many religious brothers and sisters, and I am forever grateful." Show your appreciation for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives.



Please give generously to the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which benefits, among others, the friars who have served St. Francis over the years. Special envelopes are in your pew.

A New Look

Those of you who receive personalized offering envelopes will have noticed a new look to your envelopes, and soon the offertory envelopes in the pews will have a new look as well. The reason: our parish has recently switched to a new provider, Our Sunday Visitor.



Evergreens and Flowers

The evergreens and flowers for Advent and Christmas are possible through YOUR contributions to our Flower Fund. If you would like to contribute, please look for the contribution envelopes marked FLOWER DONATION in the pews or literature racks near the doors of the church.

PRAYER REQUESTS

For Those Who Are Ill or in Pain

Kathy Affleck, Imelda Schroeder, Michelle Dyke
Leon Tillman and Shelly Bettencourt Tillman

For Those Who Have Been Called to Eternal Life

Greg Bucher: *Memorial Service December 17 at 2:00 pm
at the VFW Post in West Sacramento (925 Drever St.)*

Gregg Campbell

Service December 18 at 3:00 pm at St. Francis

Marielle Aloyse Brandt

Service December 19 at 10:00 am at St. Francis

Arminda Tenorio

Service December 21 at 10:30 am at St. Francis

Fr. Bruno Barnhart, OSB

Mass Intentions for this Week

Dec. 13 Sun.	7:30am	<i>Pro Benefa</i> (for benefactors)
	9:30am	<i>Pro Populo</i> (for parishioners)
	Noon	Angel Tapia†

To request that your loved one be added to our bulletin prayer request list, contact Galen Unruh (443-8084 x114 or GalenU@stfrancisparish.com). To request a Mass Intention, contact SJeanay Willis Bolden, Parish Secretary (443-8084 or SJeanayB@stfrancisparish.com).

OUR ST. FRANCIS FACEBOOK PAGE

Connect with Us!

Even if you or your friends don't have a Facebook account, you can still view our Facebook page. Just go to our parish website: www.stfrancisparish.com and click on the *f* Connect button. If you do have a Facebook account, go to <https://www.facebook.com/SFAPSacramento>. Be sure to "Like" our page!



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Help Decorate for Christmas

Wednesday, December 23

4:00-5:30 pm • 7:00-8:00 pm

The scaffolding is down! The first part of the restoration is finished! It's time to decorate our beautiful church for Christmas! Decorating projects will happen on Wednesday, December 23 from 4:00-5:30pm and from 7:00-8:00pm. During the break we'll have pizza to share. Sign-ups will be taken after Masses this weekend and next. All are welcome!



It's Leaf Time at St. Francis!

Do you have two hours on a Saturday to help pick up leaves?

You have surely noticed the leaves falling fast and furiously around the church. The Saturday morning gardening crew desperately needs some help gathering them all up! All they are asking is for you to give two hours a month for the next three months. Just consider the benefits: Getting out in the fresh morning air, making friends with other parishioners; giving a couple of hours service to beautifying our Church; burning a few extra calories so you can knock back a couple of extra eggnogs at Christmas.



Please give Felipe and crew a hand for a couple of hours, Saturday mornings at the Church, starting at 7:00 am. Questions? Call Felipe: 916-731-4949.

CHURCH BUILDINGS PROJECTS

Paint Restoration Half Finished!

The restoration of the ceiling and upper walls of the rear half of the Church has been completed. Over the next couple of weeks, work will continue on the lower walls, the vestibule, the stairway to the choir loft and in the Reconciliation Room. We will have a few weeks' respite from scaffolding until December 28, when scaffolding will be erected in the nave and altar areas and remain through February 16. Pews will be removed from the naves, and scaffolding supports will be placed near the side doors, so be careful when entering or exiting the Church from those doors.



Thank you all for your help and cooperation over the last several months. We could not have gotten so much done so quickly without everyone's support. We are half-way through the project!

8th ANNUAL MARDI GRAS GALA

Saturday, January 30, 2016

5:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Red Lion Hotel and Conference Center

Q. What's New This Year?

SUPER RAFFLE – One ticket can win multiple items

A Mardi Gras **KING AND QUEEN** will be crowned

Back By Popular Demand:

The Mardi Gras **MASK CONTEST**

Everyone who brings a mask can participate
2 winners /2 great prizes



FREE PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS

A lasting memory of this wonderful evening

Q: What can I do to help?

You can help make this a successful community event!

Make a reservation (via flyer or online)

Get family and friends together and reserve a table for 10

Contribute a Live Auction or Super Raffle item

Make a donation

Q: What do we need for the auction and raffle?

Here are a few ideas:

Time Share or vacation home stays

Travel Packages - from day trips to week vacation spots

Weekend Hotel "staycation" packages

Sporting event tickets

Restaurant dining certificates

Gift Baskets

Collector Items



Q: When do we need the prizes?

By January 4, 2016

Want to make a reservation or donation, or just want to learn more about this fun event? Contact:

Galen Unruh, Director of Outreach
GalenU@stfrancisparish.com or 443-8084 x14

ONGOING: ALL ARE WELCOME

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

During the Liturgy of the Word at our 9:30 am Mass, children K-4th grade are escorted from the church to the Parish Center Chapel by an adult catechist for CLOW. No registration required. Parents may accompany their children.

Church Tours: 4th Sundays after Noon Mass. *Note: church tours are suspended while the church paint is being restored EXCEPT on December 27, when there will be a tour!*

Communion Visitation

To request a visit for you or a loved one, please email: SFCommunionVisitation@gmail.com. Please include your phone number in your email. Or call Galen (443-8084 x114).

Contemplative Prayer

Mondays 6:00 pm in the Parish Center Chapel.

Tuesdays after 12:10 pm Mass in St. Clare Chapel.

Gospel Series

Sundays 11:00 -11:45 am in the Parish Center. Reflection and meditation on the gospel. More info: Mary (536-9753).

Healing Prayer

Healing Prayer ministers are available to pray for you or your loved ones. Email your prayer petitions to healingprayer@stfrancisparish.com, or call the parish office (443-8084).

High School Youth Ministry

1st and 3rd Thursdays from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Parish Center. Light dinner provided. Bring a friend! StFrancisTeens@gmail.com.

Hospitality

Sundays after 9:30 am Mass. Join us for coffee and donuts in Brunsman Hall.

Library Hours: **Thursdays**, Noon - 2:00 pm and

1st and 3rd Sundays, 8:30 - 11:30 am in the Parish Center.

Little Lambs Nursery Program

Child care for children ages 1-3 during 9:30 am Mass. To register, go to our Children's Faith Formation link on our parish website: www.stfrancisparish.com/children_formation.htm or email LittleLambs@stfrancisparish.com.

Praying the Franciscan Crown

Saturdays, 9:00-10:00 am in the Parish Center Chapel. The Franciscan Crown rosary dates from the 1400s and focuses on the Seven Joys of Mary. More info: BethW@stfrancisparish.com.

Taizé Prayer: **Wednesdays**, 6:00-7:00 pm, in the church.

T'ai Chi Chih

Saturdays: 9:05 am in St. Clare Chapel or, weather permitting, in the park across from the church.

Wednesdays: 6:00 pm in the church (during Taizé Prayer).

School Prayer Service: **Mondays** at 8:10 am in the church (when school is in session). All are welcome.

Thomas Merton Circle: More info: John (482-6976).

Young Adults (20's-30's)

Come try out our young adults groups called Christian Life Communities (CLC). There is no commitment—just attend once and go from there. Our CLCs are a place for growth, companionship, and transformation. More info: Patrice at YoungAdults@stfrancisparish.com.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Sacramento Children's Home Holiday Help Needed

Sacramento Children's Home is starting to get ready for what they hope will be a busy holiday season. They need groups that are willing to help at their donation drop-off site, which is open December 7 - 21. Groups work four-hour shifts, from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm or 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm during the week; and from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm on the weekends. Please pick a time to volunteer that works for you and your family. You may work partial hours. Any time that you can give would be appreciated.

All donations that are dropped off need to be sorted; the items need to be entered into our inventory system and then distributed to the correct program. All this work is done by volunteers. Please contact Wendy if you would like to help: Wendy Beeseda, Volunteer Coordinator for Sacramento Children's Home 916-290-8119 or wendy.beseda@kidshome.org.

Christian Brothers High School Placement Exam

Saturday, January 16, 2016 Eighth graders interested in attending CB in the 2016-17 school year are required to take the placement exam on Saturday, January 16 from 8:45 am - 12:30 pm. Online applications are due on January 13, 2016. Please contact the Admissions Office for more information at (916) 733-3690 or visit www.cbhs-sacramento.org.

An Invitation to Pray – All Are Welcome!

Franciscan Crown Rosary Prayer Group

Do you enjoy being part of a spiritual community? Like to learn new forms of prayer? Have a spiritual connection with the Blessed Virgin Mary? Enjoy talking about the history of the Catholic Church and the Saints? Like bacon? Well, if you answered yes to one or more of the above questions, the Franciscan Crown Rosary Group (FCRG) is the place for you! We meet every Saturday at 9:00 am at the Parish Center, "K" Street entrance, for prayer, fellowship, and sometimes brunch, afterwards. Prayer instructions and Franciscan Crown Rosaries are provided. There is no commitment. Drop by for one or more meetings. More info: Beth White at BethW@stfrancisparish.com, or 443-8084 x 110.

Weekly Readings

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

PARISH INFORMATION

St. Francis Parish Center Offices: 1066 26th Street, Sacramento, CA 95816 • Phone: 916.443.8084
 Fax: 916.443.7356 • Website: www.stfrancisparish.com • Office Hours: MON-FRI, 9AM-5PM

St. Francis Elementary School: 2500 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95816 • Phone: 916.442.5494
 Website: www.stfranciselem.org • Office Hours: MON-THUR, 8AM-4PM and FRI, 8AM-2PM (during the School Year)

Pastor	Ken Laverone, OFM	Kjlofm@stfrancisparish.com	x115
Associate Pastor	Sebastian Sandoval, OFM	SebastianS@stfrancisparish.com	x111
Principal	Ivan Hrga	Principal@stfranciselem.org	916-442-5494
Director of Liturgy	Beth White	BethW@stfrancisparish.com	x110
Director of Music	Tim Mascarinas	TimM@stfrancisparish.com	x103
Director of Faith Formation	Skip Bacon	SkipB@stfrancisparish.com	x112
Director of Outreach	Galen Unruh	GalenU@stfrancisparish.com	x114
Administrative Associate	Fran Anderson	FranA@stfrancisparish.com	x102
Plant Manager	Joe Prassa	JoeP@stfrancisparish.com	x107
Office Assistant	Pamela Caballero	PamelaC@stfrancisparish.com	x105
Parish Secretary and Wedding Coordinator	Sjeanay Willis Bolden	SjeanayB@stfrancisparish.com	
Bookkeeper	Jacquie Embs	JEmbs@stfrancisparish.com	x104
Communion Visitation Ministry Coordinator	Peggy Briggs	SFCommunionVisitation@gmail.com	
Infant Baptism Coordinator	Carol Spinella	InfantBaptism@stfrancisparish.com	x302
Library Coordinator	Pat Pavone	Library@stfrancisparish.com	
Membership Coordinator	Christelle Cobian	Membership@stfrancisparish.com	x101
Parish Council Chair	Margaret Healey	ParishCouncil@stfrancisparish.com	
Young Adults Ministry Coordinator	Patrice Clemons	YoungAdults@stfrancisparish.com	
Youth Ministry Coordinator	Traci Bean	StFrancisTeens@gmail.com	

In Residence at the Friary: Ray Bucher, OFM • Ken Laverone, OFM • Sebastian Sandoval, OFM
 Mark Schroeder, OFM • John Summers, OFM

REGISTER AS A MEMBER OF OUR PARISH • UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

Name 1: _____ Name 2: _____
(Last Name, First Name) (Last Name, First Name)

Address: _____
(Street Address) (City, State) (Zip Code)

Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____

Cell Phone: () _____ E-Mail: _____

Mass you attend: _____ Children's Names _____ M/F _____ Date of Birth _____ Grade _____
 5:15PM 7:30AM 9:30AM Noon

Please place this form in the collection basket or
 • Mail it: 1066 26th St., Sacramento CA 95816
 • Fax it: 916-443-7356 or
 • Register online: www.stfrancisparish.com/membership.htm