

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Our Parish Guide



MISSION STATEMENT

**St. Francis Parish is a Catholic Christian Community
building the reign of God.**

**We value vibrant liturgy and personal prayer
as a way to worship God and celebrate life.**

**We are an inclusive community
respecting the dignity of all persons
and supporting the journey of each person.**

**We respond to the command of Jesus to love by
welcoming all, evangelizing, supporting spiritual growth,
and being Eucharist to each other.**

**Challenged by the Holy Spirit,
we reach beyond ourselves
to care for our neighbors, the poor, the marginalized,
and those alienated by our Catholic Church.**

**We aspire to be witnesses and prophets
advocating for justice in the world and in the church.**



MASS INFORMATION	4	SACRAMENTS	12-13
		Reconciliation	
PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION	5	Anointing of the Sick	
Staff & Volunteer Contact Information		Infant Baptism	
		Confirmation for Adults	
PARISH FACILITIES	6-7	Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)	
Facilities Rental		Marriage Preparation	
Church Cleaning Ministry			
Gardening Ministry		CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS	13
Parish Campus Map		Christian Initiation for Children (CIC)	
		Children's Faith Formation Classes	
PARISH MEMBERSHIP	8	Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)	
Membership		Teen Group (Grades 9-12)	
Welcome Brunch		ADULT FAITH FORMATION	14
Welcome Team		Adult Faith Formation Advisory Committee (AFFAC)	
Volunteering		Lending Library	
How to Give to St. Francis		Take Another Look for Returning Catholics	
		Thomas Merton Circle	
PARISH LEADERSHIP	9	SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT	14-15
Parish Council		Conscious Living for Men	
Communications Committee		Contemplative Prayer	
Finance Council		Tai Chi Chih Group	
School Advisory Commission		Taizé Prayer	
		Spiritual Direction	
LITURGICAL MINISTRIES	10-11	Women's Day Retreat	
Acolytes		OUTREACH PROGRAMS	16-17
Bread Baking Ministers		Breakfast Ministry to the Homeless	
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion		Communion Visitation Ministry	
Lectors		Funeral Planning	
Linen Ministers		GLBT Outreach	
Liturgy Planning Team		Healing Prayer	
Music Ministers		Loaves & Fishes Team	
Sacristans		Peace and Justice Community	
Sacred Movement Ministers		Prayers for Loved Ones	
Sound & Light Ministers		Step Ministry to the Homeless	
Ushers / Greeters		Sunday Coffee & Donuts	
		Tithing Committee	

MASS INFORMATION

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

5:15pm Eucharist • Choir or Cantor

SUNDAY MASSES

7:30am Eucharist • Cantor and Piano

9:30am Eucharist • Choir

Noon Eucharist • Cantor and Piano
or Contemporary Choir

WEEKDAY MASSES

MONDAY-FRIDAY

12:10pm Eucharist • St. Clare Chapel
(located in the breezeway
between the Church and Friary)

HOLY DAY LITURGIES

6:30am • 12:10pm • 6:30pm • Church

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays • 4:00pm or by appointment

Our liturgies are vibrant and welcoming, nurturing people's spirituality and deepening their faith:

- A warm greeting at the doors
- Art and environment that nurtures our prayer
- Freshly baked Eucharistic bread
- Simply but beautifully adorned altar & ambo
- Special dramatic presentations of the Word
- "Singable" and spirit-filled music
- Committed use of inclusive language
- Innovative incorporation of sacred movement
- Challenging and affirming homilies
- Dedicated service of well-trained ministers

DURING SUNDAY 9:30AM MASS

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW)

We invite your children (K-6th grades) to participate in our CLOW program at 9:30am Sunday Mass.



Children are dismissed just after opening prayers and go with an adult presider to the Parish Center Chapel to hear the Word proclaimed and explained in more age-appropriate language. During CLOW our children's choir sings. The children return during the Preparation of the Gifts. Parents are welcome to accompany their children.

No registration is required, and it's free.

CHILD CARE / NURSERY

If you have a toddler (1-5 years old) and attend 9:30AM Mass, you may wish to check out our Parish Co-Op Nursery in the "Nap Room" in the adjoining St. Francis Elementary. Free Childcare is provided by adult and teen volunteers. Our Nursery program runs all year, except for holiday weekends.



AFTER SUNDAY 9:30AM MASS



COFFEE & DONUTS

Please join us for coffee and donuts in Brunsman Hall (behind the Church).

All are welcome!

PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICES & SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

ST. FRANCIS PARISH CENTER OFFICES: 1066 26th Street, Sacramento, CA 95816 • Office Hours: M-F, 9-5
Phone: (916) 443-8084 FAX: (916) 443-7356 Website: <http://www.stfrancisparish.com>

ST. FRANCIS ELEMENTARY: 2500 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95816 • Office Hours: M-Th, 8-4 and Fri, 8-2
Phone: (916) 442-5494 • Website: www.stfranciselem.org

PARISH STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

PASTOR	Anthony Garibaldi, OFM	x115	AnthonyG@stfrancisparish.com
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE	Peggy Chambers, OMC	x103	PeggyC@stfrancisparish.com
PARISH ASSISTANT	Fran Anderson	x102	FranA@stfrancisparish.com
LITURGY DIRECTOR	Deborah Jones	x110	DeborahJ@stfrancisparish.com
MUSIC DIRECTOR	James Swan, OFM	x106	JamesS@stfrancisparish.com
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH FORMATION	Georgie Saydak	x112	GeorgieS@stfrancisparish.com
DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH	Kay Skonieczny	x111	KayS@stfrancisparish.com
PLANT MANAGER	Joe Prassa	x107	JoeP@stfrancisparish.com
OFFICE ASSISTANT	Pam Caballero	x105	PamelaC@stfrancisparish.com
RECEPTIONIST	Virginia Milton	x100	
BOOKKEEPER	Jacquie Embs	x104	JEmbs@stfrancisparish.com
INFANT BAPTISM COORDINATOR	Carol Spinella	x114	InfantBaptism@stfrancisparish.com
LIBRARY COORDINATOR	Pat Pavone		Library@stfrancisparish.com
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR	Barbara Bucher	x101	Membership@stfrancisparish.com
WEDDING COORDINATOR	Mary Brown	x113	Wedding@stfrancisparish.com

ST. FRANCIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL	Laurie Power	LaurieP@stfranciselem.org
------------------	--------------	--

PARISH FACILITIES

RESTROOMS

Locations: 1) Breezeway between Church and Friary
2) Brunzman Hall

BRUNSMAN HALL

Location: Behind the Church
Capacity: 15 round tables seat 120
Full Kitchen
Uses: Wedding Receptions • Rehearsal Dinners •
Anniversary/Birthday Parties • Other
Special Events

ASSISI ROOM

Location: Brunzman Hall (behind the Church)
Capacity: 10 rectangular tables seat 40
Uses: Lectures • Small Group Meetings •
Training Classes

ST. CLARE CHAPEL

Location: Breezeway between Church and Friary
Capacity: Seats 50
Altar and piano
Uses: Daily Mass • Prayer and other services

PARISH CENTER

Location: across K street from the Church

PARISH CENTER CHAPEL

Location: Parish Center
Capacity: Seats 80
Altar and Piano
Uses: Prayer/Meditation Groups and Retreats

PARISH CENTER PARLOR 1 (PC1)

Location: Parish Center
Capacity: Seats 15
Uses: Small Group Meetings

PARISH CENTER PARLORS 2 & 3 (PC2/ PC3)

Location: Parish Center
Capacity: Seats 2-4
Uses: Spiritual Direction • Counseling •
Reconciliation

PARISH LENDING LIBRARY

Location: Parish Center
Capacity: 2 rectangular tables seat 16 people
Uses: Browsing and Reading •
Small Group Meetings

PARISH CENTER DINING ROOM

Location: Parish Center
Capacity: Three tables seat 24
Uses: Small Group Meetings/ Receptions

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS MINISTRIES



CHURCH CLEANING MINISTRY

When: Saturdays, 7:00-8:30am

Every Saturday morning, the members of this ministry perform the loving task of freshening the sanctuary, chapel and sacristy of our parish for the week's coming activities.

GARDENING MINISTRY

When: Tuesdays and Saturdays, 7:00am

Every Tuesday and Saturday morning, the members of this ministry rake, mow, prune, plant, weed and lovingly tend the parish grounds.

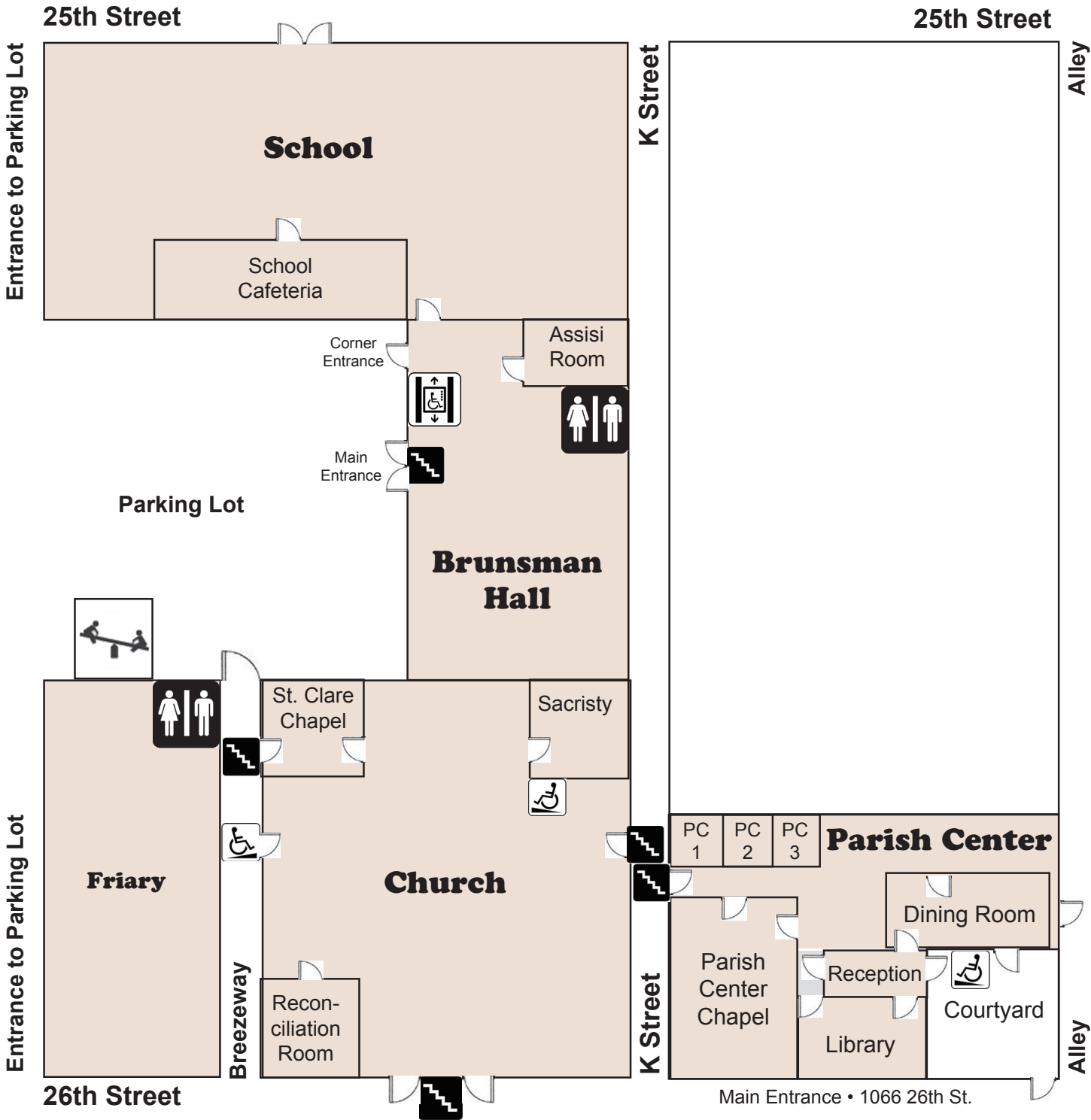


To inquire about reserving or renting parish facilities for meetings or special events, or for more information about buildings and grounds ministries or to volunteer, contact:

Joe Prassa, Plant Manager
916-443-8084 x107 or
JoeP@stfrancisparish.com

MAP OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH FACILITIES

(Not to scale)



PARISH MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP

If you would like to become a member of our parish community, it's easy! You may register online at www.stfrancisparish.com or fill out the registration form available in the parish bulletin and literature racks in the church and parish center.

WELCOME BRUNCH

When: 3 times per year
Location: Brunsman Hall

New to the parish? Join us for a Welcome Brunch!

Have you ever wondered what a Vatican II parish means? What about the difference between a Franciscan and a Diocesan parish—or what makes St. Francis unique? Or, how can I get more involved in this faith community?

The St. Francis Welcome Team invite all parishioners who have joined our parish in the past year to a brunch—a time to meet members of the Welcome Team, other volunteers, parish staff, and Fr. Anthony—and learn a little more about St. Francis Parish. You do not need to bring anything, and hopefully, you will walk away with an increased knowledge of what makes St. Francis so special.



WELCOME TEAM

Meets: 1st Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30pm
Location: Parish Center Library

Plans and support the welcoming and orientation of those who are new to St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

Activities include:

- Hosting Welcome Brunch (3 times per year)
- Contacting and welcoming new parishioners

Join a fun group dedicated to hospitality and helping newcomers get to know our parish. Meeting attendance is optional.

VOLUNTEERING AT ST. FRANCIS

This is a great way to give back to your parish community, as well as to get to know us better. In this guide, you will find many opportunities to share your gifts. Your staff and volunteers will be happy to talk with you about the ministries.

Like to volunteer, but not sure where your interests would best fit the needs of the parish? Contact:

Barbara Bucher, Membership Coordinator
(916) 443-8084 x101 or membership@stfrancisparish.com

HOW TO GIVE TO ST. FRANCIS

Providing vibrant liturgies, sacramental preparation, faith formation and outreach programs—as well as maintaining our beautiful church and our parish center, depends on contributions from our parishioners

Most of our operating budget comes from our weekly collections and direct deposit donations.

DIRECT DEPOSIT

Enrollment forms are available in the church literature racks, online at www.stfrancisparish.com, and at the parish center. You may use direct deposit to designate donations to a parish ministry or fund.

For more information about direct deposit, contact:

Jacquie Embs, Bookkeeper
(443-8084 x104 or Jembs@stfrancisparish.com).

PERSONALIZED OFFERING ENVELOPES

To request envelopes, contact Barbara Bucher (see box below).

For more information about membership, our welcome brunch, volunteering or to receive offering envelopes, contact:

Barbara Bucher, Membership Coordinator
(916) 443-8084 x101 or
Membership@stfrancisparish.com

PARISH LEADERSHIP

St. Francis of Assisi Parish welcomes and encourages lay participation—the gifts of all the baptized. For us, Church is the People of God. Our pastor, parish staff, parish and finance councils, school advisory commission and other lay ministers work together collaboratively and prayerfully to plan for the future of our parish, develop parish programs, and respond to issues or concerns that are important to our parish community.

PARISH COUNCIL

Meets: 2nd Tuesdays, 7:00pm
Location: Brunsman Hall



Our Parish Council is a body of parish members committed to serving our parish. They bring varied perspectives, skills, and talents. They act as stewards of our parish, helping our pastor to envision, plan, and implement policies and activities that promote Gospel ministry in the Franciscan tradition.

Our Council members strive to encourage full participation in the life of the parish and to demonstrate that transparency and collaboration are possible and desirable in today's Church. Council members are elected by parishioners.

Contact: ParishCouncil@stfrancisparish.com

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Meets: Varies
Location: Parish Center Library



Collaborative and transparent leadership requires effective communication, and our Parish Council sponsors a standing Communications Committee to provide leadership in this area.

Enjoy web design? Like to write? Excited by desktop publishing? Passionate for photography? Or just have some ideas about how to help promote parish activities/events and inform others about our parish?

Join a group of creative and dedicated individuals who bring you our parish news letter, oversee our parish website, and provide input to the parish Bulletin, Annual Report and other parish publications. For more information about this ministry or to volunteer, contact:

ComCom@stfrancisparish.com

FINANCE COUNCIL

Meets: 3rd Tuesdays, 6:00pm
Location: Parish Center



Advises the pastor on parish finances. Finance Council members are appointed by the Pastor.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMISSION (SAC)

Meets: 2nd Thursdays, 5:30-7:30pm during school year
Location: Assisi Room

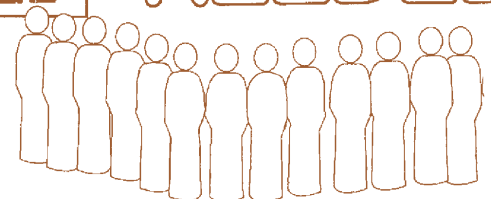
The SAC aspires to become a credible and effective forum for an engaged school and parish community working collaboratively to achieve excellence at St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School.

Guided by Franciscan values, the SAC advises the pastor and school principal of opportunities and goals regarding: Planning, Policy Development, Finances, Facilities Management, Marketing and Development.

These opportunities and goals strengthen the faith formation, educational programs, and environment for students, and in fulfillment of this mission, the SAC will reinforce the partnership which exists between the parents, school, and parish.

Contact: Laurie Power, Principal
(sfprincipal@stfranciselem.org)

VOLUNTEERS
SIGN UP HERE
NEEDED



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Our liturgy is a communal celebration—we invite full and active participation. A variety of people with diverse gifts and skills contribute to the creation, prayerfulness, and beauty of the liturgies here at St. Francis. Liturgical Ministers are servants of the liturgy and, in all things, serve the gathered assembly. They are registered, actively participating parishioners, make a one-year commitment to serve our parish community as a minister, and they attend an annual workshop/day of prayer

ACOLYTES

- Assist the presider during the liturgy
- Hold the liturgical books for the presider
- Prepare the altar and the sacred vessels at the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Serve as a Minister of the Cup during communion



BREAD BAKING MINISTERS

Serve: One Saturday each month, 8:00am
Location: Parish Center



- Are part of an ancient tradition
- Help the community to experience Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist more richly
- Are members of a small team that gathers one Saturday morning a month in the Parish Center kitchen to bake the bread for our Eucharistic celebrations that weekend

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Serve: One Mass/ month

- Serve the Eucharistic meal as Minister of either the Bread or Cup
- Acknowledge, through eye contact and reverent distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ, the presence of Christ in each person
- Are members of a team that serves the same weekend every month
- Are a Sign of our communal pledge to serve one another, which Christ asked of us when he washed the feet of his disciples



LECTORS

Meet: Monday prior to lectoring,
7:00pm*

Location: Church



- Are part of a long line of oral tradition whose task it is to arouse a living faith, lift God's Word from the written page & give it life
- Proclaim God's Word to the community with conviction, passion, and transparent faith, lead the assembly in prayer as you pray the Prayers of the Faithful
- Gather with fellow lectors, on the Monday evening before you are scheduled to serve, to break open the Word and to work on the skills necessary to be an effective proclaimer and leader of prayer

LINEN MINISTERS

Serve: Monthly



- Wash, dry, and iron linens used for our liturgical celebrations
- Pick up the linens from the sacristy on Sunday and return them the following weekend
- Provide their own cleaning and ironing supplies

LITURGY PLANNING TEAM

Meet: Monthly

Where: Parish Center

- Bring creativity and talents to the liturgy planning process
- Participate in the planning, creation, and implementation of various elements of our liturgies, such as seasonal church environment, Communal Reconciliation services, scripture dramatizations, etc.
- Nurture the community's prayer and worship, searching out expressions of our faith that engage the senses and expand the horizons of our worship
- Choose their level of time commitment and involvement



MUSIC MINISTERS

Meet: Weekly
Rehearsal: Weekly or as needed



- Serve the community's worship by leading the assembly in sung prayer
 - Possess competency in the performance of music
- Ministries include:
- 5:15am Saturday liturgy Choir
 - 9:30am Sunday liturgy Choir
 - Cantoring at 7:30am Sunday liturgy
 - Cantoring at Noon Sunday liturgy
 - Children's Choir for Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) during the 9:30am Sunday liturgy
 - Taizé Prayer service

More Info: Music@stfrancisparish.com

SACRED MOVEMENT MINISTERS

Meet: Varies
Location: Church



- Create movement and dance that will enhance the community's prayer and worship on Feast days
- Are visual prayer
- Inspire and motivate the community to participate more fully in WHOLE body prayer
- Attend all rehearsals



SACRISTANS

- Are the first to arrive before the liturgy to unlock the doors, turn on the lights, and adjust the heating and cooling
- Prepare the liturgical books, the vestments, and other items necessary for the celebration of liturgy

- Place the correct amounts of the bread and wine in the sacred vessels
- Dress the altar
- Gather all the necessary vessels and objects for the worship space and place them in their proper place

SOUND & LIGHT MINISTERS

- Set up all sound equipment used in the liturgy
- Set up the chairs, music stands, and lights for the music ministers
- Get out the wireless microphones for those who will need them, checking and replacing batteries
- Take down and put away all equipment after the liturgy



USHERS / GREETERS

- Create and maintain a climate of hospitality
- Convey a warm welcome to each person
- Convey a spirit of reverence for God's House and God's People
- Are the custodian of the church doors and windows
- Distribute songsheets and bulletins
- Assist with taking up the collection
- Seat people and provide needed assistance
- Ready the church for the next liturgy
- Are part of the worshipping community and model attentive participation

For more information about our liturgical ministries or to volunteer, contact:

Deborah Jones, Liturgy Director
(916) 443-8084 x110 or
DeborahJ@stfrancisparish.com

SACRAMENTS

RECONCILIATION

When: Saturdays, 4:00-5:00pm
Location: Church

Individual Reconciliation is available by appointment. To schedule an appointment, please call the Parish Office: (916) 443-8084. Communal Reconciliation services are celebrated in Advent, Lent, and in the Fall.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

This sacrament is administered individually by appointment.

Communal services for administering this sacrament are offered once a year.



Who can receive this sacrament?
Baptized Christians who have any of these conditions: serious or chronic illness, advanced age, or addiction. To schedule an appointment, please call the Parish Office: (916) 443-8084.

INFANT BAPTISM PREPARATION

We assist parents and families in preparation for the Rite of Baptism by guiding them through the communal Baptism liturgy, which occurs during weekend Masses usually four times per year.



For more information about our Infant Baptism program or to volunteer, contact:

Carol Spinella, Infant Baptism Coordinator
(916) 443-8084 x275 or InfantBaptism@stfrancisparish.com



CONFIRMATION FOR ADULTS

Were you baptized as a child but never completed your initiation with confirmation? Something happened as a teenager and you put it off? Thinking about being confirmed now?

Once a year, we offer seven sessions in preparation for adult confirmation. These sessions provide an opportunity for you to ask questions, review our faith, and talk about the sacrament of confirmation.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

For those who would like to learn more about our Catholic faith and/ or join the Catholic Church.

Prepares adults to receive the Sacraments of the Church through religious education and faith sharing.



The first step is to come to RCIA Inquiry, which meets weekly for six weeks for informal discussion, usually four times a year, and ends with a retreat and opportunity to participate in the Rite of Acceptance for those discerning God's call to take the next step in the RCIA process.

The next step is to attend RCIA sessions, twice monthly for approximately two years and culminates with:

- Baptism/Profession of Faith
- Confirmation
- First Eucharist at the Easter Vigil

and continues with monthly support of new members.

A Parish Companion will accompany you on this journey, along with members of our RCIA Team of catechists.

Catechesis is the core of our RCIA program, and our catechists help create a sense of community as they facilitate weekly discussions. Together, in the presence of the Spirit, the Catechists help the group "Break Open the Word" by reading and discussing the Gospel for that week. Everyone is invited to reflect on the gospel message and how it pertains to our lives.

Parish companions begin their walk with our catechumens as representatives of the parish. Companions attend the two monthly RCIA sessions and participate in rites during weekend Masses, particularly in Lent. Companions support and pray for those in RCIA and make a commitment to walk with them as they go through the RCIA program.

For more information about the RCIA process and/ or Adult Confirmation program or to volunteer, contact:

Sr. Peggy Chambers, OMC, Pastoral Associate
(916) 443-8084 x103
or PeggyC@stfrancisparish.com

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Our wedding coordinator schedules wedding dates. Preparation consists of a meeting to complete required paperwork and a premarital inventory survey, several meetings with the priest who will preside at the wedding, in order to go over the results of the survey and to talk with the couple about the ceremony.

Members of our marriage preparation ministry meet with couples before their wedding to help in the planning of the ceremony. They attend the rehearsals and walk the couples through the ceremony. They also attend the weddings and help the clergy and the couples to ensure a memorable experience.

For more information about our Marriage Preparation program or to volunteer, contact:

Mary Brown, Wedding Coordinator
(916) 443-8084 x113 or Wedding@stfrancisparish.com



OUR CHILDREN

CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR CHILDREN (CIC)

Our team of adult catechists prepares children between the ages of 7 and 16, who are not yet baptized, to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. Children and their families receive weekly catechesis, companionship and support.

CIC is a two-year process, which culminates with:

- Baptism/Profession of Faith
- Confirmation
- First Eucharist at the Easter Vigil

and continues with monthly support of new members.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

When: Sunday mornings, September to mid-May
Location: St. Francis Elementary School

For children from preschool (Pre K) through junior high school. Our classes are taught by adult Catechists and Aides who have answered their baptismal call to share and teach our Catholic faith.

CHILDCARE / NURSERY

When: Sundays, 9:30AM Mass
Location: St. Francis Elementary



For children 1-4 years old (who are not in Pre K or Kindergarten Children's Faith Formation classes) during 9:30AM Mass. Come check out our Parish Co-Op Nursery in the "Nap Room" across from the cafeteria in St. Francis Elementary School. Free childcare is provided year-round, except for holiday weekends.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW)

When: Sundays, 9:30AM Mass
(September to mid-May)
Location: Church/Parish Center Chapel



For children K - 4th Grade during 9:30am Mass. Volunteer Lay Presiders "break-open" the Sunday readings in an age-appropriate way. Children are escorted to the Parish Center Chapel during the Liturgy of the Word and back to the church for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. No registration needed. Parents are welcome to accompany their children.

TEEN GROUP (GRADES 9-12)

When: Twice monthly
Location:Varies

Interested in joining our high school teen program? St. Francis of Assisi Parish and the Newman Center have teamed up to offer teens one of the most dynamic programs around. We offer faith formation, social activities and FOOD!!!



For more information about our Children's programs, or to volunteer as a catechist or aide, contact:

Georgie Saydak, Director of Youth Faith Formation
(916) 443-8084 x112
or GeorgieS@stfrancisparish.com

OUR CHILDREN CONT'D

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (www.stfranciselem.org)

Our school is a thriving extension of our parish. Our Franciscan, academically-challenging curriculum begins with a transitional-kindergarten class and continues through eighth grade. Dedicated to living the Gospel values, we teach and support students in becoming spiritual, academic, respectful, confident, and responsible members of society. We follow our *Acts of Courtesy* and *Schoolwide Learning Expectations*, which encompass these goals.

Our students not only receive daily religious curriculum instruction, but also experience and live our faith throughout the day. While remembering that every child learns differently, we are committed to maintaining the highest level of academic excellence, preparing our students for high-school and life-long success,

In addition to the standard subjects, we also offer Performing Arts, Music, Spanish, Italian, PE, Technology, and Library, along with such extracurricular activities as Academic, Religion and Math Decathlon teams; Student Council; Choir; Drama Club; News and Media Team; and Sports programs. We also offer a wonderful before and after school Extended Day program which meets the needs of most of our working parents. Come visit us to see why we are so proud of our school!



ADULT FAITH FORMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AFFAC)

Meets: 1st Wednesdays, 7:00pm
Location: Parish Center Library

The mission of the AFFAC is to research, develop, organize and implement Adult Faith Formation sessions for our parish. We aim to meet people where they are in their faith formation, affirm and form mature Catholics of all ages, and call all to the practice of their belief.

Activities include:

- Offer programs in conjunction with liturgical seasons and scripture cycles
- Provide parishioners with booklets for personal reflection during Advent, Lent and Easter
- Invite speakers with special expertise to speak on topics of spiritual concern
- Sponsor annual Summer Film Festival

LENDING LIBRARY

Hours: Thursdays, 12:30-2:30pm
1st & 3rd Sundays, 8:30-11:30am
Location: Parish Center

Our Library contains a private collection of 3,000 books, as well as audio and video material for the use of our parishioners. Subjects include: bible study, church history, prayer and spirituality, marriage and family, etc.



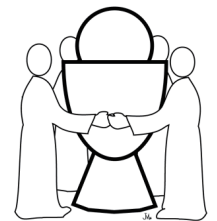
During library hours, a volunteer is available to help you find items and check them out. The rest of the time, the Library is open on a self-service basis whenever the Parish Center offices are open (M-F: 8AM-5PM). For more information about our library or to volunteer, contact:

Pat Pavone, Library Coordinator
Library@stfrancisparish.com

TAKE ANOTHER LOOK FOR RETURNING CATHOLICS

Meets: Twice yearly, after Christmas and Easter
for five weekly sessions
Location: Varies

For whatever reason you may have left the Church, we are here to listen and to support you. Our goal is to help you make peace with whatever may have caused you to leave.



If you want to explore today's church, we can give you a start. That's just one option. We seek to offer whatever you need to continue your spiritual journey, wherever it takes you.

THOMAS MERTON CIRCLE

Meets: Bi-monthly
Location: Parish Center

Gather with others to study and discuss the writings of Thomas Merton, the most widely-published spiritual writer of the 20th Century.



Refreshments provided. All are welcome! No need to register or join the group. Just come and see if it fits. More info: (916) 482-6976.

CONSCIOUS LIVING FOR MEN

Meets: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00pm
Location: Assisi Room in Brunsman Hall

Men of all ages are invited to share their stories in this supportive fellowship, explore their lives and the lives of those around them as spiritual quests into the mystery of being, and serve their community with a deeper love and awareness



No need to register or join the group. Just come and see if it fits. More info: (916) 419-1096.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

EVENING CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Meets: Mondays, 6:00pm
Location: Parish Center Chapel

DAYTIME CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Meets: Tuesdays, 1:00pm (following Noon Eucharist)
Location: St. Clare Chapel

An ancient tradition in the Church, contemplative prayer is a time set apart to rest in God, to open our minds and hearts — our whole being — to God, the Ultimate Mystery, beyond thoughts, words and emotions. Quietly consenting to God's presence and action within, we find our attention may also move outward to discover God's presence everywhere. All are welcome!



TAI CHI CHIH GROUP

Meets: Saturdays, 8:45 - 10:00am
Location: St. Clare Chapel

Gathers for simple, gentle, meditative movement practice that offers physical, mental and spiritual energy that is grounding and uplifting.

New members are welcome! Instruction and encouragement are offered. Please join us for an hour of gentle movement.



TAIZÉ PRAYER

When: Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00pm
Location: Church



Taizé (pronounced tuh-ZAY) is a small village in western France where there is an ecumenical community of Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox brothers. The brothers of Taizé have developed a unique form of prayer and meditation using music, readings and silence. Come share this contemplative, spirit-filled service with us.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Spiritual direction is the contemplative practice of assisting another in the desire to awaken more fully to the Mystery called God. A person seeking a more conscious connection with God works with a director, usually once a month.

This process focuses on conscious development of the relationship between a person and God. This process might include helping you:

- Learn to pray
- Notice/respond to the presence, movement & invitation of God in your life/ prayer
- Listen for or notice God's activity with discernment for decision-making
- Become aware of images of God that influence your relationship with God
- Bring wounds or life-patterns to God for healing

Spiritual direction is not a counseling/ therapeutic relationship, but many find it to be a helpful companion process to work happening in these other settings.

WOMEN'S DAY RETREAT

When: Annually in the Fall
Location: Brunsman Hall

Annual day-long retreat for women.



For more information about our Adult Faith Formation and/ or Spiritual Enrichment programs or to volunteer, contact:

Sr. Peggy Chambers, OMC, Pastoral Associate
(916) 443-8084 x103
or PeggyC@stfrancisparish.com

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

OUR FRANCISCAN CALL

As a Franciscan Catholic community, we:

- Look beyond our parish, living out our faith actively in our world.
- Affirm that being human is holy – God entered into the world as one of us, meets us where we are, and loves us as we are
- Strive to be aware of and filled with God’s mercy.
- Minister as Francis did, to the poor and marginalized.
- Seek to act as peace makers – fostering dialogue.
- Reverence all of Creation.

This Franciscan charism is the foundation for all our parish activities, but especially for our outreach programs.

BREAKFAST MINISTRY TO THE HOMELESS

When: One morning each week

Where: Parish Center Dining Room

On a daily basis, members of this ministry offer early morning coffee, food and fellowship to our homeless guests who sleep in the Parish Center Courtyard.

The Ministry depends on those who serve the guests each morning, as well as on food and monetary donations from the rest of the parish. New volunteers are always welcome, as are donations of coffee and individual servings of juice and cereal, peanut butter or cheese crackers, or granola bars. Donations may be dropped off at the Parish Center M-F, 9AM-5PM or in the carts provided at Mass on the first week-end of every month.

Financial support is needed, welcome and appreciated. The green envelopes in the racks in the back of the church are for this purpose.

COMMUNION VISITATION MINISTRY

Members of our Communion Visitation Ministry bring Communion to those who are homebound.

If you know of anyone who is homebound and unable to attend Mass, and who would like one of our communion ministers to visit, please let us know.



FUNERAL PLANNING

We provide assistance in planning Funerals, Memorial Services, Rosaries, and Vigils that reflect the rich liturgical tradition of the parish.

During this challenging time, we help parishioners and their families select appropriate scriptural readings, prayers and music that have special significance for their family. We also arrange for musicians and vocalists, work with funeral homes and cemeteries, and provide support to the family and friends of those who have died.



GLBT OUTREACH

This ministry provides welcome, support and opportunities for those in our community who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered to share faith and fellowship.

GRIEF SUPPORT

Coping with the death of a loved one is one of the hardest things we have to do in life. Our grief support program, “Grief, Gratitude & Grace”, is a 4-week series offered twice yearly that addresses this journey of loss and healing.



“Grief, Gratitude & Grace” provides an opportunity for those who have experienced the death of a loved one to join with others in a loving, healing environment to share their stories and experience.

In addition to the sharing, each evening includes information on coping with grief, the tasks and characteristics of grief, reading lists, ritual and prayer.

Contact Kay for information about the next scheduled “Grief Gratitude & Grace” or for individual assistance with the grieving process.

HEALING PRAYER

Are you being called to pray for your fellow parishioners? God does the Listening, Loving and Healing — all we do is say “yes” to being God’s instrument.



Members of this ministry pray for fellow parishioners, and information is kept confidential.



LOAVES & FISHES TEAM

Meets: 3rd Sundays, 10:15am-1:30pm

Our St. Francis team serves lunch to the homeless at the Loaves & Fishes Dining Room. Volunteers must be 14 years or older.

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Meets:Varies
Location: Parish Center Dining Room



As members of St. Francis Parish, we embrace the parish mission, aspiring to be witnesses and prophets advocating for justice in the world. We work to foster a Franciscan awareness of and response to issues of peace, human dignity, and integrity of creation through education and advocacy.

We challenge ourselves and others to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God.



PRAYERS FOR LOVED ONES

If you have:

- Loved ones who are sick
- Loved ones who have died
- Loved ones serving in the Armed forces

and would like our parish community to pray for them, please contact Kay Skonieczny (see box below). Our Healing Prayer Team will pray for them, and their names will be listed in our bulletin, so that our parish community can pray for them. Names of those serving in the Armed Forces will also be added to the display in the church.

STEP MINISTRY TO THE HOMELESS

Serve: Weekly
Location: Parish Center Courtyard

This ministry began on our church steps (hence the name, “Step” Ministry), where homeless men and women gathered each night to rest.



Members of this ministry continue to serve as a daily welcoming presence for homeless men and women. We provide our guests with a safe, peaceful, and private place to receive rest in a loving and accepting atmosphere.

Our volunteers serve once a week as part of a team, greeting and visiting with those who come each evening to our parish center courtyard.

SUNDAY COFFEE & DONUTS

When: After 9:30am Mass
Location: Brunzman Hall



Please join us for coffee and donuts in Brunzman Hall. All are welcome! It’s a great opportunity to get to know people in our parish community.

If you enjoy coffee and donuts after 9:30AM Mass, consider helping serve one Sunday a month. You’ll enjoy it even more!

TITHING COMMITTEE

Meets: Quarterly

As part of our stewardship to the larger community, St. Francis of Assisi parish donates annually to organizations whose missions are compatible with our parish mission statement. The committee meets to determine recipients.

For more information about our Outreach programs or to volunteer, contact:

Kay Skonieczny, Director of Outreach
(916) 443-8084 x111
or KayS@stfrancisparish.com

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
1066 26th Street
Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 443-8084
www.stfrancisparish.com
