



St. Francis of Assisi Parish

January 4, 2009

Feast of the Epiphany

Good Morning, Good People!

Epiphany means “manifestation” in Greek. God is manifested in the birth of Christ. Historically, the feast of the Epiphany combined Christmas, Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord in one celebration. In the western Church, we separated the three and, over time,

have come to place the emphasis on Christmas. Each feast focuses on a particular aspect of Jesus. Christmas focuses on Jesus as the Savior of the World; Epiphany focuses on Jesus as manifested to the Gentiles as well as the Jews; and the Baptism of the Lord focuses on Jesus as the Son of God.



Our understanding of Jesus has developed since the period of the early Church. In the early Church, the first truly great dispute occurred when the Gentiles were coming to believe in Christ. The question was “What is the relationship of the Gentiles to the Jews?” As we know, some Jewish believers in Christ wanted the Gentiles to become Jews as part of the process of becoming Christian. The first council of Jerusalem rejected that point of view, deciding that Gentiles could become Christians without having to observe Jewish law.

In a sense, the question remains with us: In our multi-cultural world, how do we adore and express belief in Christ?

Europeans brought with them to their New World colonies their particular expression of Christianity. South America, the southern parts of North America, and Eastern Canada became predominantly Roman Catho-

lic, while the English colonies became predominantly Protestant.

With our current sensitivity to cultural heritage, is a European expression of Christianity particularly suited to the spread and expression of Christianity? Our churches may need to draw from the cultures in which they find themselves. They may want to “borrow from the customs, traditions, wisdom, teaching, arts and sciences of their people everything which could be used to praise the glory of the Creator, manifest the face of the savior, or contribute to the right ordering of Christian life.” (*Ad gentes divinitus*, #22, see *Lumen Gentium*. #13) (*Ad gentes divinitus* is the document on the Missionary Activity of the Church and *Lumen Gentium* is the document on the Church in the Modern World, both from the Second Vatican Council.)

We must also realize that cultures are not limited to ethnic or linguistic groups; rather, there are cultures based on different pursuits of life. An example of this would be, in the words of John Paul II, a “Culture of Life.” Other examples are: a media culture, a drug culture, etc.

If we are to follow the guidelines in *Ad gentes divinitus*, then we will have to examine each culture we find ourselves in and see what can be used to promote Christ. Past adaptations of culture into Christianity may not be meeting the needs of our present world.

We pursue what is good in each culture and adapt it into Christianity for only one purpose: to adore and pay homage to Christ, who is the revelation of God in history, both in the past and in the present.

Come let us adore Christ.

Fr. Anthony

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday Vigil 5:15 pm
Sunday 7:30 am, 9:30 am, Noon

WEEKDAY MASSES

(in St. Clare Chapel)
12:10 pm

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 4:00-5:00 pm*
or by appointment

THIS WEEKEND

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUN	JANUARY 4	
8:30-11:30am	Library Hours	Library
1:00pm	Secular Franciscans	Parish Center
MON	JANUARY 5	
8:10am	School Prayer Service	Church
6:00pm	Contemplative Prayer	PC Chapel
7:00pm	Lectors	Church
TUE	JANUARY 6	
1:00pm	Contemplative Prayer	St. Clare Chapel
6:00pm	CIC I	Brunsmann Hall
6:30pm	Take Another Look	St. Clare Chapel
WED	JANUARY 7	
5:00pm	Welcoming Committee	Parish Center
5:30pm	Tai Chi	Parish Center I
6:00pm	Taizé Prayer	Church
6:00pm	CIC 2	Brunsmann Hall
6:30pm	Adult Faith Formation Com.	Library
THU	JANUARY 8	
9:00am	School Mass	Church
12:30-2:30pm	Library Hours	Library
5:30pm	School Advisory Commission	Assisi Room
6:30pm	RCIA	Brunsmann Hall
FRI	JANUARY 9	
SAT	JANUARY 10	
7:00am	Church Cleaning Ministry	Church
8:00am	Bread Baking Ministry	PC Kitchen
9:00am	Tai Chi	Parish Center I
SUN	JANUARY 11	
11:10am	1st Eucharist Parent Mtg	PC Chapel
3:00pm	Interfaith & Ecum. Com.	Parish Center
3:00pm	Magdalene Journey	St. Clare Chapel

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY:	I Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Mt 4:13-17, 23-25
TUESDAY:	I Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44
WEDNESDAY:	I Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52
THURSDAY:	I Jn 4:19 — 5:4; Lk 4:14-22a
FRIDAY:	I Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16
SATURDAY:	I Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30
SUNDAY:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11; Ps 29 or Is 12:2-6; Acts 10:34-38 or I Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11

PARISH COUNCIL MEET & GREET AFTER ALL MASSES



Interested in more information about our parish? Something on your mind? Parish Council members are ready to assist you!



PARISH LIBRARY

OPEN

8:30-11:30AM

Ring the doorbell on the K St. side of the Parish Center!

WE WELCOME NEW PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS



Bernie Evangelista and Scott Olling have recently joined the Parish Council, filling vacancies left by Judy Guardalabene



and Linda Johnston-Panattoni. Thank you Linda and Judy for your many hours of devoted service to the parish, and thank you Bernie and Scott for agreeing to serve on the Parish Council!

Coincidentally, both Bernie and Scott and their families joined the parish in 2007. Bernie is currently the Principal of a Montessori Charter School in Sacramento and has been in education for over 18 years. She is also a Eucharistic Minister at St. Francis. Scott provides freelance web design, graphic design, logo design and illustration services. He shares these talents with the parish by serving on the Communications Committee as well as on the Parish Council.

WE WELCOME NEW PARISHIONER



Rodney Aspiras
and Rea Anne Arcangel

Maria Brosterhous
and Thomas Ferguson

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF A HOME



On the Feast of the Epiphany, it is an ancient tradition to place an inscription over the door to our homes in chalk indicating the year and the initials of the Magi, whose names, according to tradition, are Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar (20 + C + M + B + 09). The letters also form an acronym for this prayer:

Christus mansionem benedicat, Latin for “May Christ Bless this house.” Here is a Blessing to pray at as you place this inscription over the door to your home:

Holy God,

Before he was born, a star showed the place of our Savior’s birth. At his baptism in the Jordan, you revealed Jesus to be your beloved Son. And at the wedding feast of Cana, his power was manifest in a miracle. On this solemnity of Epiphany, we ask you to bless our home. Let its shelter from cold and night show us your protection and care. Fill our home with signs of your presence, with joy, laughter, and peace. May all who seek Christ—family and friends, guests and strangers—find him here in our home. We ask this through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-With-Us. AMEN.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK



The three kings’ knowledge brought them to manger bed of the greatest king, a savior, God-with-us, born for all. Our knowledge and plans lead us only so far. How has Jesus brought you to wonder and awe this Christmas season?

JUBILEE YEAR OF ST. PAUL



EPHESIANS 3: 2-3, 5-6

The entire reading today—one very long and dense sentence in the original Greek!—is a reflection on Paul’s ministry to the Gentiles. Prior to the revelation given to Paul, such a marvelous fulfillment of God’s plan was beyond anyone’s wildest dreams, exceeding even Isaiah’s vision in the first reading! Even Peter had trouble in the beginning with the idea that the Gentiles would share in God’s plan of salvation with the Jews. And there is still division within the Christian church—not only the schism between the Orthodox Church and the Roman Church, but also the separation between the Roman Church and the Protestant churches. And so it continues.

In this new year, what can you do to bridge the gap of understanding among those of the Christian faith whom you know?

THIS WEEK

TAKE ANOTHER LOOK...

STARTING THIS MONDAY

MONDAYS

JANUARY 6-FEBRUARY 3, 2009

6:30-8:00PM

ST. CLARE CHAPEL




There are many reasons why you may have left the Church. No matter what they are, we are here to listen and 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. More info: Sr. Peggy (peggy@stfrancisparish.com or 443-8084 x103).

ADULT FAITH FORMATION



GREEN SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF THE WEEK

Water and energy are closely linked. When you save water, you save energy. Water-related uses account for 19% of state electricity use, and 32% of natural gas use.

This week, in addition to installing another compact fluorescent bulb, check for water leaks around your house. Install low flow showerheads. It’s winter, so turn off automatic sprinklers! Consider planting a native plant garden instead of a lawn. 

Prayer for this week:

Holy, God, we know that Your voice echoes over the waters. Help us to honor the water You have given us and be mindful of it in all we do.

Preparing for a New Light, www.interfaithpower.org



MAGDALENE JOURNEY

**SUNDAY, JAN 11 & 18
3:00-4:30PM**

ST. CLARE CHAPEL

The Magdalene Journey calls women in our modern world to reflect upon and share their personal faith stories. Through this process, a transformative bond is created between the women as they tell of the experience of Christ in their lives.

The next Magdalene Journey will begin with two discernment gatherings January 11 & 18—an opportunity to ‘try on’ the experience before making a commitment. Join us at 3:00pm in St. Clare’s Chapel. More info: Deirdre (454-0200 or deirdrebeth@sbcglobal.net).

SUNDAY COFFEE & DONUTS HELP NEEDED!



Hospitality Ministers are needed for providing the coffee & donuts after 9:30am Mass on the **third Sunday of the month**. If you enjoy this treat every week or would like to meet people, how about taking a turn at offering a friendly greeting, a warm

cup of coffee and a tasty donut? Interested? Call Kay (443-8084 x111 or kays@stfrancisparish.com).

THANKS, BOB AND MIKE!

Thank you to Bob Chilcote for cutting and removing the concrete around an underground water pipe that was leaking behind the Friary. And thank you to Bob and Mike Kelly for pouring new concrete after the plumbers repaired the pipes. Our Building Fund dollars are stretching farther thanks to your help!



RCIA INQUIRY

STARTING MONDAY, JAN 12

6:30-8:00PM • PARISH CENTER



Interested in joining the Catholic Church? You are welcome at RCIA Inquiry. Starting Monday, Jan 12, RCIA Inquiry will be held every Monday evening for six weeks, from 6:30-8:00pm in the Parish Center.

At the end of the six weeks, there will be 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.

A complete schedule of Inquiry Sessions is posted on our parish website: www.stfrancisparish.com/rcia/inquiry_sched.pdf. More info: Sr. Peggy (443-8084 x 103 or PeggyC@stfrancisparish.com).

SAVE THE DATE!

“HEART BEAT— A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF LIFE & LOVE”

FEBRUARY 21, 6-11PM

DANTE CLUB



- We’ll dine & dance & celebrate our community and one another.
- Dancing fun for everyone: mixers, circle dance, conga lines.
- No partner needed, but all partners and friends are welcome.

This star studded evening will feature: YOU and...

- St. Francis staff dance team led by Fr. Anthony
- Broadway Medley by Brother James Swan
- Singing Surprise by dynamic duo Deborah Jones and Brother James
- Hot guitar by Joe Prassa (and friends)
- A professional DJ
- Silent and live auction: *Dinner with the friars anyone?*

Tickets go on sale January 5. \$50 per person, limited seating. Profits will go to the Step Ministry. More info: Kay (443-8084 x111 or kays@stfrancisparish.com).



GRIEF SUPPORT SERIES

MONDAYS IN FEBRUARY

7:00 - 9:00PM

ST. CLARE’S CHAPEL

Coping with the death of a loved one is one of the hardest journeys we have to make in life. Our St. Francis grief support program, Grief, Gratitude, and Grace, addresses this journey of loss and healing.

The 4-week series 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. Each evening also includes information on coping with grief, the tasks and characteristics of grief, reading lists, ritual and prayer.

The Grief, Gratitude & Grace series is on Mondays, February 2, 9, 16 & 23 from 7-9:00pm in St. Clare’s Chapel. To reserve a space for the series or to seek individual assistance for the grieving process: Kay (443-8084 x111).



CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

CHRISTMAS BREAK

There are no Children's Faith Formation Classes, Nursery or CLOW this Sunday. All Children's ministries will resume next Sunday, Jan 11.



PARENT MEETING REMINDER

There will be a First Eucharist Parent Meeting in the Parish Center Chapel on **Sunday, Jan 11, at 11:10am** for all parents of children preparing for First Communion in May 2009.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED!



Thank you to the many volunteers who made the 4:00pm Christmas Eve Family Mass so special! We are especially grateful for all the leadership provided by Barbara Breeden and Rose Nakamoto in preparing the children for this occasion. Thank you, also, to J.D. Warrick for managing the lighting for this event—and to the other parents who assisted in a myriad of ways. Janet Stites and the children's choir deserve our gratitude as well. Their hours of practice and beautiful music truly enhanced the whole proclamation. Last, but not least, thank you to all the children who helped proclaim the Word by lecturing and enacting the Christmas Gospel.

Parish 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.

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

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

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

ST. FRANCIS ELEMENTARY

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

On behalf of the students and families of St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School, we would like to wish you a Happy New Year! Thank you for your continued support. You are remembered in our prayers through our school's Book of Intercessions!



CHRISTMAS BREAK

School resumes this Monday, Jan 5, at 8:00am.

REGISTRATION FOR 2009-2010

St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School registration for transitional kindergarten-8th grade for the 2009-2010 school year will take place **January 5 through February 13**. More info and an application packet, please call the school office at 442-5494.

ALUMNI WANTED!

Are you an alum of St. Francis Elementary? If so, we'd love to hear from you! Visit our school's website at stfranciselem.org and click on "Alumni Page," or call the school office to provide us with your updated information. Tell your classmates to do the same!



BUILDING CENTENNIAL ALUMNI HOMECOMING

JANUARY 24, 2009

MASS 5:15PM

RECEPTION & OPEN HOUSE

In conjunction with our parish's Building Centennial Celebration, we are welcoming back our alumni.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

for THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Judy Unruh • Jim Voss

for THOSE CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE

May they rest in peace

for THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

for the FAITH COMMUNITY of

St. Basil Parish in Vallejo, whose feast day is January 2



Prayer Request contact: Kay Skonieczny
(443-8084 x111 / KayS@stfrancisparish.com).

FINANCE AT-A-GLANCE

WEEKLY COLLECTION	Dec 20/21	\$11,212
DIRECT DEPOSIT*	December	\$7,317
YEAR-TO-DATE	July 01-Dec 21	\$310,187
BUILDING FUND	Dec 1-21	\$10,682
STEP MINISTRY	Dec 1-21	\$7,866
TAIZÉ PRAYER	Dec 1-21	\$170
FRANCIS HOUSE	Dec 1-21	\$1,301
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	Dec 1-21	\$894

*\$357 Building Fund; \$365 Step Ministry; \$20 Taizé

Thank You For Your Generosity!

CONVENIENT WAYS TO GIVE TO ST. FRANCIS

Direct deposit: Enrollment forms are available online at www.stfrancisparish.com, in the church literature racks, & at the parish center). **Donations may also be made to the Building Fund, Step Ministry or other parish programs using direct deposit.**

Personalized offering envelopes: To request envelopes, contact Barbara Bucher, Membership Coordinator (443-8084 x101 or Membership@stfrancisparish.com).

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 • **PRINCIPAL:** Mrs. Laurie Power

PASTOR	Anthony M. Garibaldi, ofm	AnthonyG@stfrancisparish.com	x115
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE	Peggy Chambers, omc	PeggyC@stfrancisparish.com	x103
LITURGY COORDINATOR	Deborah Jones	DeborahJ@stfrancisparish.com	x110
DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH	Kay Skonieczny	KayS@stfrancisparish.com	x111
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH FAITH FORMATION	Georgie Saydak	GeorgieS@stfrancisparish.com	x112
MUSIC DIRECTOR	James Swan, ofm	JamesS@stfrancisparish.com	x106
PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	Fran Anderson	FranA@stfrancisparish.com	x102
PLANT MANAGER	Joe Prassa	JoeP@stfrancisparish.com	x107
BOOKKEEPER	Jacque Embs	JEmbs@stfrancisparish.com	x104
RECEPTIONIST	Virginia Milton		
OFFICE ASSISTANT	Pamela Caballero	PamelaC@stfrancisparish.com	x105
INFANT BAPTISM COORDINATOR	Carol Spinella	InfantBaptism@stfrancisparish.com	x114
LIBRARY COORDINATOR	Pat Pavone	Library@stfrancisparish.com	
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR	Barbara Bucher	Membership@stfrancisparish.com	x101
PARISH COUNCIL	Richard Hernandez, Chair	ParishCouncil@stfrancisparish.com	
RCIA CONTACT	Mary Kuvakos	RCIA@stfrancisparish.com	
WEDDING COORDINATOR	Mary Brown	Wedding@stfrancisparish.com	x113
IN RESIDENCE AT THE FRIARY:	Larry Dunphy, ofm • Franklin Fong, ofm • Anthony M. Garibaldi, ofm James Swan, ofm • Charles Talley, ofm		

PARISH REGISTRATION & CONTACT INFO UPDATE FORM

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

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

HOME PHONE: () _____ **WORK PHONE 1:** () _____ **WORK PHONE 2:** () _____

CELL PHONE: () _____ **E-MAIL (h):** _____ **E-MAIL (w):** _____

Please place this form in the **collection basket** or

• **MAIL it:** 1066 26th St., Sacramento CA 95816

• **FAX it:** 916-443-7356

• **REGISTER ONLINE:**

www.stfrancisparish.com/membership.htm

CHILDREN'S NAMES	M/F	DATE OF BIRTH	GRADE
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Please use this form to **let us know if your information has changed.** Thanks!

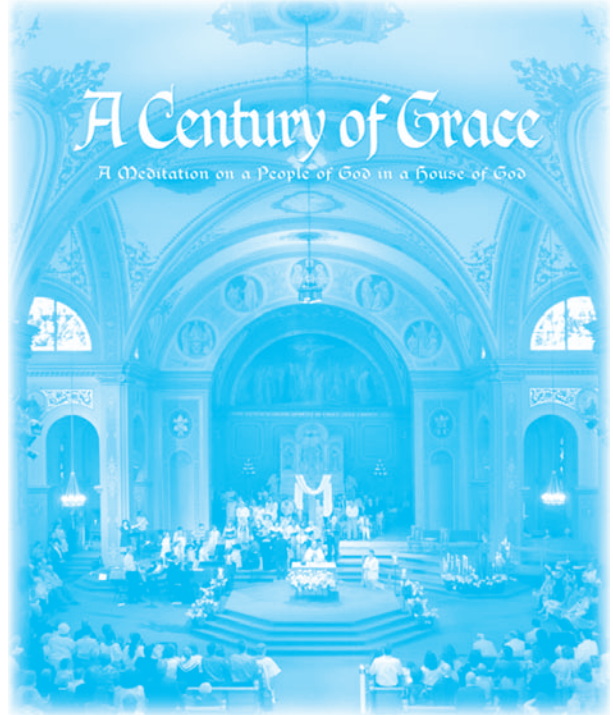
Here's an idea for the gift money you've received: gift yourself with our parish Centennial book, *A Century of Grace*. Reflecting on photos of our church art and architecture, on the lives of the saints depicted, and on the scripture and prayers included is an excellent way to walk through a new year. This is not only a wonderful keepsake, but also a lifelong spiritual resource.

HOW TO PURCHASE YOUR COPY:

- Use the order form below.
- Stop in at the Parish Center during the week
- Or go online to:
http://www.stfrancisparish.com/book_order.htm#preview. **Be sure to select the shipping option if you wish to have the book shipped to you or to someone else.**

THINK OF ALL THE POSSIBILITIES:

- A special keepsake for you and your family and/or for someone who has been baptized, confirmed or married at St. Francis
- Donation to a library
- A gift to someone whose budget is tight or is in a rest home
- A gift to someone who has visited our church and lives far away, or.....



“A Century of Grace would make a wonderful gift for anyone and definitely a keepsake for you to recall your memories ... here at St. Francis. I encourage each parishioner to buy one for themselves and another for a relative or friend.”

– Fr. Anthony

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Book Order Form

Mail with Check, Money Order, or Credit Card Info to: **Centennial Book, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 1066 26th St., Sacramento, CA 95816**

Name: _____

(Please Print)

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Daytime phone: _____ Evening phone: _____

Quantity: _____ x \$50.00/book = \$ _____

Sales Tax (\$3.88/book): \$ _____

Optional Shipping* (UPS): \$ 10.00

Total: \$ _____

Method of Payment (check one):

Check or Money Order enclosed (Make payable to **St. Francis of Assisi Parish**)

Credit Card (circle one): VISA MasterCard Discover American Express

***Note: If you do not select the shipping option, you may pick up your book(s) at the Parish Center during the week.**

Credit Card No: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____
 (3 or 4 digit number on back of card)

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____
 (Please Print)

Billing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 (if different from above)