



St. Francis of Assisi Parish

January 11, 2009

Baptism of the Lord

Today is the feast of the baptism of Jesus, and the close of our Christmas season. For many of us, the tree is already on the street, the gifts put away or exchanged, the thank you's written, and we are getting back to ordinary life. The church too, enters "ordinary time" beginning Monday.

My tree is a fire hazard at this point, but I hate to say goodbye to this beautiful season, so I stretch it out as long as I can. For me, it is a season of light, multi-colored lights brightening the dark winter nights. A time of waiting and fulfillment. More than anything, it is the wonder of Emmanuel, God with us. This phrase is heard so often in our readings, our carols, our greeting cards, it can become dull with over-use. But what does it mean? Our God chooses to be with us in a new way. Creation gives birth to her Savior. Darkness is overcome, hope is renewed. The prophecies are fulfilled. And we enter into a season which begins to unfold the mystery.

One of the questions that sometimes comes up on this feast of the baptism of the Lord is "Why would Jesus be baptized – isn't that about forgiveness of sins? Jesus was without sin, wasn't he?" Indeed. The baptism of John was a Jewish ritual that marked a new turning toward God, a baptism of repentance for believers. John says clearly that he is not worthy to untie Jesus' sandals, a chore usually done by slaves when guests entered a home. Jesus does not respond in Mark's gospel; we are only told that the baptism occurred.

Jesus is not only Word but Way. As disciples, you and I are followers of Jesus. What Jesus did, we do our best to follow. So we, too, follow Jesus into the waters of baptism – yes, for forgiveness, and for so much more, as this gospel proclaims. To be daughters and sons of God. To receive the Holy Spirit. To be sent into the world to serve. To live the Christmas mystery.

Mark tells us that after Jesus' baptism, the heavens opened. This is traditionally seen as a connection between the heavens and the earth, normally separated by a covering or a great void. In this moment, a connection is restored. This reoccurs at Jesus' death, where the temple veil is torn

top to bottom, rending that which separates the people and the Holy of Holies.

In the ancient world, there were no paternity tests. If a father declared a child to be his own, that settled it. Jesus is declared beloved, Son, and the one in whom Jesus' Abba is well-pleased. Jesus had left home and family seeking John, and is affirmed as God's own son.

In the beginning, when God first created humanity, God looked upon people formed in God's own image and was well-pleased. In Jesus, this reality is restored. In baptism we have a new dignity, our humanity is as it was always intended to be. Do we really let this sink in to our hearts and our minds?

Can you imagine the first time that our God, Jesus, reached out a hand to touch the cheek of his mother? The first time Jesus was able to smile at a shepherd? To make friends, smell the sea, attend a wedding feast? To be human is wonderful, and a blessing. Jesus comes near, enters in, and leads us into the fullness of what it is to be fully alive, fully human. So much of sin is a denial of this – thinking that we are "only human," not taking the risks, scared to love, hesitant to reach out, trying to be more or less than we really are – beloved daughters and sons in whom God is well-pleased.



Enjoy this feast. Renew your baptism at the font with water and the sign of the cross. Know that you are beloved. And that in you, in your human wonder and risks, work and love, God is well-pleased.

Every blessing,

Sr. Peggy

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

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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
MON	JANUARY 12	
8:10am	School Prayer Service	Church
6:00pm	Contemplative Prayer	PC Chapel
6:30pm	RCIA Inquiry	Parish Center
7:00pm	Lectors	Church
7:00pm	Caregiver Support Group	Parish Center I
TUE	JANUARY 13	
1:00pm	Contemplative Prayer	St. Clare Chapel
6:30pm	Take Another Look	Parish Center
7:00pm	Conscious Living for Men	Assisi Room
7:00pm	Parish Council Meeting	Brunsmann Hall
WED	JANUARY 14	
5:00pm	Welcoming Committee	Library
5:30pm	Tai Chi	Parish Center I
6:00pm	Taizé Prayer	Church
THU	JANUARY 15	
9:00am	School Mass	Church
12:30-2:30pm	Library Hours	Library
6:30pm	RCIA	Brunsmann Hall
6:30pm	RCIA Neophytes	St. Clare Chapel
FRI	JANUARY 16	
SAT	JANUARY 17	
7:00am	Church Cleaning Ministry	Church
8:00am	Bread Baking Ministry	PC Kitchen
9:00am	Tai Chi	Parish Center I
SUN	JANUARY 18	
8:30am-Noon	Healing Prayer	Parish Center
8:30am-11:30am	Library Hours	Library
1:30pm	Secular Franciscans/SJB	Assisi Room
3:00pm	Magdalene Journey	St. Clare Chapel

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY:	Heb 1:1-6; Mk 1:14-20
TUESDAY:	Heb 2:5-12; Mk 1:21-28
WEDNESDAY:	Heb 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39
THURSDAY:	Heb 3:7-14; Mk 1:40-45
FRIDAY:	Heb 4:1-5, 11; Mk 2:1-12
SATURDAY:	Heb 4:12-16; Mk 2:13-17
SUNDAY:	1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

THIS WEEKEND



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).



PARENT MEETING

THIS SUNDAY, JAN 11

11:10AM • ST. CLARE CHAPEL

For parents of all children preparing for First Communion in May 2009.

NEW TO OUR PARISH?

HOSPITALITY

Join us for coffee and donuts after 9:30AM Mass in Brunsmann Hall (behind the church).

HEALING PRAYER

Healing prayer ministers are available to pray for and with you at the doors of our church after all Masses. They may be identified by their round yellow badges.

HEARING DEVICES

Personal hearing devices are available to assist those attending liturgies at St. Francis. If you would like to use one, please ask an usher for assistance.

RESTROOMS

Restrooms are located in the breezeway between the church and friary.

THIS WEEK

RCIA INQUIRY

STARTING MONDAY, JAN 12

6:30-8:00PM • PARISH CENTER



Interested in joining the Catholic Church? You are welcome at RCIA Inquiry, which will be held every Monday evening for six weeks starting this Monday. 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. For a complete schedule of Inquiry Sessions go to: www.stfrancisparish.com/rcia/inquiry_sched.pdf. More info: Sr. Peggy (443-8084 x 103 or PeggyC@stfrancisparish.com).



CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

MONDAY, JAN 12 • 7:00PM

PARISH CENTER • PARLOR I

Are you caring for an elderly parent or a seriously/terminally ill relative or friend and would like to meet with others for mutual sharing and support? Please join us! More info: Deacon Mike Iredale (508-2781).

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, JAN 13
7-9:00PM

BRUNSMAN HALL



All are invited to participate!



CONSCIOUS LIVING FOR MEN

TUESDAY, JAN 13
7-9:00PM • ASSISI ROOM

Men of all ages: Share in a supportive fellowship that seeks a deeper understanding and appreciation of our life's journey. More info: (419-1096).

TAKE ANOTHER LOOK...

TUESDAYS
JAN 6-FEB 3, 2009
6:30-8:00PM • PARISH CENTER



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

QUESTION OF THE WEEK



At Jesus' baptism, the heavens open and God's voice is heard. How does Jesus' presence among us as a human person remove a barrier for you in your human relationship with God?

FRIAR NEWS FROM FR. ANTHONY



PROVINCE NEWS...I am

pleased to announce that John Hardin, OFM has been elected the new Provincial for the St. Barbara Province. Fr. John has been the Executive Director of the St. Anthony Foundation in San Francisco for many years. He

has often presided at Masses at St. Francis, and has a heart for our parish. Let us congratulate and keep Fr. John in our prayers as he takes on this important leadership responsibility for the friars.

FRIARY REWIRING UPDATE... Thank you to all who have contributed so far to the friary rewiring project. Your donations now total over \$15,000! The more donations we receive, the smaller the loan we will need and the less interest we will have to pay. If you would like to make a contribution, please use one of the yellow envelopes available in your pew labeled "Friary Rewiring." We thank you for your generosity and concern!

Council members have met with me to consider the optimum approach to fully funding this project. Joe Prassa is in the process of obtaining additional bids.

[Note: A yellow flyer with information about the friary rewiring project is available in the church literature racks.]

JUBILEE YEAR OF ST. PAUL



ACTS 10: 34-38

The second reading today is not from the letters of St. Paul but from the Acts of the Apostles.

BRAVO! MERCI!

As our Christmas season draws to a close with the Baptism of the Lord, the Liturgy Team offers a rousing round of applause to all those who made our celebrations beautiful and inspirational—from those who participated in the weekly work parties to put in the evolving church environment during Advent and Christmas, to all the liturgical ministers who greeted, sang, read, and fed us into fullness! From your grateful parish...THANK YOU!!

CHRISTMASTIDE EVERGREENS & POINSETTIAS

The awesome trees and the magnificent poinsettias that graced our church this Christmas season are possible because of donations to the Flower Fund. If you would like to contribute, please look for the contribution envelopes marked FLOWER DONATION in the literature racks near the doors of the church. On behalf of a grateful parish, thank you to all who donated!



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).

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

**SATURDAY, JAN 17
9:00AM - 3:00PM**

MERCY GENERAL HOSPITAL



Learn strategies to address the important issues of the Economy, Immigration and Global Climate Change. Join the Franciscan Friars for a live interactive program via the web that concentrates on how Gospel values and Franciscan Spirituality can inform our policy priorities. This video on-line program from the Franciscan Renewal Center (Scottsdale, AZ) features Russ Testa, Executive Director, Franciscan Action Network. The program can be viewed locally with **Fr. Franklin Fong, OFM** hosting at: Mercy General Hospital North Auditorium, 40th and "J" Streets, Sacramento. Sponsored by the Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Office, Province of St Barbara. More Info: (502-4366).

CHINESE NEW YEAR MASS AND TRIBUTE TO OUR ANCESTORS

Bishop Jaime Soto will celebrate the Chinese New Year Eucharist with the Sacramento Chinese Catholic Community on **Sunday, Jan 18, at 3:00pm** at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. The Chinese Catholic Community cordially invites all Chinese Catholics, friends and parishioners to join in this celebration. A Celebratory Dinner with Bishop Soto will be held at 5:00pm at the MayFlower Restaurant. More info: Gloria (442-7178) or Barbara (396-9783).

CATHOLIC HIGH-SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST

The High School Placement Test for prospective students of all five Catholic high schools in Sacramento will be held on **Saturday, Jan 24, at 8:00am**. Registration for the exam should be done at the school you plan to attend in the Fall. More info:

- Christian Brothers: www.cbhs-sacramento.org
- Cristo Rey: www.cristoreysacramento.org
- Jesuit: www.jhsac.org
- Loretto: www.loretto.net
- St. Francis: www.stfrancis.org

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

A celebration held in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes, **Saturday, Feb 14 at 10:00am** at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Bishop Jaime Soto, presiding. Special Mass will include: anointing of the sick, blessing of the caregiver hands, blessing with Lourdes Water.



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

– All Children's ministries resume **THIS Sunday!** –

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW)

Children are invited to participate in Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) during 9:30am Mass. Parents are welcome to accompany their children to the Parish Center Chapel during the Liturgy of the Word and return with them for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. *No registration fee.*

NURSERY

Children ages 1- 4 years are welcome to attend the "Little Lambs" nursery program, which is staffed by volunteer teens and parents during the 9:30am Mass in the Assisi Room in Brunsmann Hall.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS WELCOME

We welcome and are committed to providing religious education and Sacramental Preparation for children with disabilities.

Children's Faith Formation contact: [Georgie Saydak](mailto:GeorgieSaydak@stfrancisparish.com)
(443-8084 x112 or GeorgieS@stfrancisparish.com)



Let the children
come to me.
The kingdom of
heaven is theirs.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

for THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Sgt. Dominic Macias, USAF

for THOSE CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE

Jeanette Laurel

for THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

for the FAITH COMMUNITY of

St. John the Baptist Parish in Folsom, whose feast day is Jan 11

Prayer Request contact: [Kay Skonieczny](mailto:KaySkonieczny@stfrancisparish.com)
(443-8084 x1111/ KayS@stfrancisparish.com).



ST. FRANCIS ELEMENTARY



WEEKLY PRAYER SERVICE

Please join us for our weekly prayer service this Monday at 8:10am in church. Our 1st graders have prepared and will lead it!

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE & PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, JAN 25



Join us for pancakes in the school cafeteria from 8-11:00am and tour our wonderful school from 11am-Noon.

REGISTRATION FOR 2009-2010

St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School registration for **NEW** students for transitional kindergarten-8th grade for the 2009-2010 school year will take place through **February 13**. More info: stfranciselem.org or call the school office (442-5494).

Jesus is
baptised

Jesus came to
the River Jordan to be
baptised by John

Use the code cracker to find John's words to Jesus

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	1	2	3	4

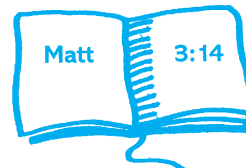


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FINANCE AT-A-GLANCE

COLLECTION Dec 24/25	\$22,047	STEP MINISTRY	Dec 1-31	\$12,512
COLLECTION Dec 27/28	\$7,675	STEP MINISTRY	Jan 1-30	\$817
COLLECTION Jan 1	\$1,068	TAIZÉ PRAYER	Dec 1-31	\$180
COLLECTION Jan 3/4	\$9,815	TAIZÉ PRAYER	Dec 1-31	\$30
DIRECT DEPOSIT* January	\$6,814	FRANCIS HOUSE	Jan 1-30	\$1,327
YEAR-TO-DATE July 01-June 30	\$350,792			
BUILDING FUND Dec 1-31	\$11,737	*\$382 Building Fund; \$340 Step Ministry; \$20 Taizé		
BUILDING FUND Jan 1-30	\$2,063			
FRIARY REWIRING To Date	\$15,090			

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

Please use this form to **let us know if your information has changed.** Thanks!

DON'T MISS IT!

HEART BEAT!

A Centennial Celebration of Life & Love

FEBRUARY 21 • 5-11:00PM

AT THE DANTE CLUB

- We'll dine and dance and 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 Br. James Swan
- Singing Surprise by dynamic duo Deborah Jones and Br. James
- Hot guitar by Joe Prassa and friends
- A professional DJ
- Silent and live auction: *Dinner with the friars anyone?*



\$50 per person

Limited seating

Profits benefit the Step Ministry.

More info: Kay (443-8084 x111 or kays@stfrancisparish.com).

How to make YOUR Reservation:

- Use the order form below.
- Stop in at the Parish Center during the week
- Or go online to:
<http://www.stfrancisparish.com>

“Heart Beat” Reservation Form

Mail with Check, Money Order, or Credit Card Info to: “Heart Beat,” 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/person = \$ _____

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

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)