



St. Francis of Assisi Parish

March 8, 2009

2nd Sunday in Lent

Good Morning, Good People!

This weekend we hear about two sons: Isaac, Abraham's son, and Jesus, God's son. From the book of Genesis we hear about the sacrifice of Isaac, and in his letter to the Romans, Paul points to Jesus' crucifixion. Both speak to the sacrifice of each parent. All parents truly understand the profound significance of these stories.

Isaac was spared, but Jesus was not. Paul emphatically states that this is proof that God is "FOR US." I emphasize "FOR US," because I often am asked by parishioners and others, "Why is God doing this to me?" Their question assumes that God is prone to inflicting pain and suffering on the creatures God created—that when negative events or situations occur, God is punishing them for their sins.

When we look at the life of Jesus, however, we see God at work in a much different way. We see Jesus healing, feeding the hungry—as St. Peter put it, "going about doing good;" yet Jesus dies on the Cross.

How, then, might we look to how God operates in our lives? I believe that God was always present to Jesus throughout his entire life. Jesus worked most of his life as a carpenter, and from the Gospel's account of how Jesus cited Scripture, I believe Jesus must have spent a lot of time reading Scripture and cultivating his relationship with God, who Jesus saw as his father.

When Jesus began his preaching ministry, the signs of God's presence in his life became more explicit and visible. I think it must have been also apparent to his disciples as well as to the people who were present for

his miracles. When questioned, set up and harassed by the elders, the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus' patience and steadiness must have come from a clarity and confidence based on his close relationship with God. I truly don't believe that Jesus felt that God was testing him.

On Good Friday, Jesus prays to God from the cross. Believing that God is there, Jesus prays Psalm 22, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (I suggest that you read the entire Psalm.) In that Psalm, there is the expression of Jesus' feeling of abandonment, but also the hope of his resurrection. In the end, Jesus makes that ultimate act of faith, placing himself in God's hands. This is pure trust and faith.

When we are experiencing our own difficulties, in the end we are called to place ourselves in God's hands and trust in God's love for us. When we do so, we do not know what will happen to us, but we do believe that God is "FOR US AND NOT AGAINST US."



MA



In our church, the Crucifixion is before us always in the mural above the altar in the old sanctuary.

The story of Abraham and the sacrifice of his son, Isaac, is beautifully rendered in the large stained-glass window above the sacristy door on the K Street side of our Church. All the elements of this dramatic story are there: Abraham, Isaac, the Angel of the Lord, the knife, the altar and the ram caught in the thicket in the background.

Let us continue on our Lenten journey,

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

QUESTION OF THE WEEK



On Mt. Moriah, "the place of seeing," God saw Abraham's devotion, and Abraham saw God's provision. What am I seeing anew or for the first time this Lent?

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUN	MAR 8	Ecumenical & Interrelig. Com	Parish Center
MON	MAR 9	School Prayer Service	Church
8:10am		Contemplative Prayer	PC Chapel
6:00pm		Lectors	Church
7:00pm		Caregivers Support Gp	Parish Center I
TUE	MAR 10	Contemplative Prayer	St. Clare Chapel
1:00pm		Parish Council	Brunsmann Hall
7:00pm		Conscious Living for Men	Assisi Room
WED	MAR 11	Taizé Prayer	Church
6:00pm		Communications Committee	Parish Center
6:00pm		Gospel of John	St. Clare Chapel
7:00pm			
THU	MAR 12	School Mass	Church
9:00am		Library Hours	Library
12:30-2:30pm		School Advisory Commission	Assisi Room
5:30pm		Sacred Movement Ministry	Church
6:00pm		RCIA	Brunsmann Hall
6:30pm			
FRI	MAR 13	Stations of the Cross	Church
6:00pm			
SAT	MAR 14	Church Cleaning Ministry	Church
7:00am		Bread Baking Ministry	PC Kitchen
8:00am		Tai Chi	St. Clare Chapel
9:00am		Lenten Community Meal	Cafeteria
6:30pm			

THIS WEEKEND



ECUMENICAL & INTERRELIGIOUS COMMITTEE

MEETING & POTLUCK

THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 8

3:00-6:00PM • PARISH CENTER

Want to learn more about the beliefs, customs, and practices of different religions? To reach out to our parish community and to form relationships with other faith communities? Please join us! More info: Barbara (482-6976) or Mary (536-9753).

THIS WEEK



CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

MONDAY, MAR 9 • 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, MAR 10

7-9:00PM

BRUNSMAN HALL



All are invited to participate!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY:	Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38
TUESDAY:	Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12
WEDNESDAY:	Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28
THURSDAY:	Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31
FRIDAY:	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
SATURDAY:	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
SUNDAY:	Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]



CONSCIOUS LIVING FOR MEN

TUESDAY, MAR 10

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).

THIS WEDNESDAY

ADULT FAITH FORMATION PRESENTS...

SEEING & BELIEVING: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

WITH ANN DENHAM

TWO WEDNESDAYS, MAR 11 & 25

7:00-8:45PM

ST. CLARE CHAPEL



John's Gospel is different; no parables, no Kingdom of God. Instead, John gives us seven Signs and invites us to enter, believe and find new life. How might this Gospel transform our lives today? Join Ann Denham, M.Div, to explore parts of John's Gospel. Flyers at the back of the church

JUBILEE YEAR OF ST. PAUL



ROMANS 8: 31B-34

This section of Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome is the first part of a powerful hymn that praises what God has done for us in and through Christ, establishing a bond of love that can never be broken, no matter what. Nothing we can do puts us beyond the mercy and salvation of God. For, Paul says, if God gave us Jesus, how will God "not give us everything else along with him?"

Spend some time this week reflecting on the abundance of God's love and mercy shown to you.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

WHAT'S FOR DINNER DURING LENT: 2

"I swear by myself, declares the Most High ... I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore."—Genesis 22



DID YOU KNOW:

The U.S. Conference of Bishops has written many pastoral letters on sustainability and Care for Creation, including "Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice," which states, "When we purchase goods and services, we can choose to support companies that defend human life, treat workers fairly, protect creation, and respect other basic moral values at home and abroad."

ACTION:

Check out the National Catholic Rural Life Conference website at: www.ncrlc.com. There you will find Catholic statements on Rural Life, Family Farms, and Care for Creation, as well as the "Ethics of Eating," and links to the "Sustainable Table," and "Food and Faith" programs.



FASTING & ABSTINENCE

Abstinence from Meat is observed on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent by Catholics 14 years and older.

Fasting is observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by Catholics 18 - 59 years old. The traditional norm for fasting is to eat only one full meal. Smaller meals throughout the day, if all added up, should not equal more than one full meal.

LITTLE BLACK BOOKS FOR LENT

We have a few copies left. They are available at the Parish Center during the week for \$1.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Individual Reconciliation: Saturdays in Lent: 4:00-5:00pm in the church.



LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE

THURSDAY • MAR 19
7:00PM • IN THE CHURCH

The service is part of our Lenten Retreat and is open to everyone. Please join us!

COMMUNITY MEALS

SATURDAYS IN LENT
AFTER 5:15PM MASS • BRUNSMAN HALL



Join us for fellowship and a simple supper (on Mar 7 and 28 the Lenten meal will be in the school cafeteria). Suggested donation is \$3/ person. Interested in helping with cooking, set-up, serving or clean-up? Please contact Kay (443-8084 x111 or kays@stfrancisparish.com).



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAYS IN LENT
6:00PM • CHURCH

We invite you to join our parish community in praying the Stations of the Cross.

WE WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS



Sergio Brenes
Kerry and Julliana Kier
Kathleen Ortega
Megan Radeleff and Alfonso Martinez, Jr.

ST. FRANCIS WELCOMES YOU!



WHO ARE YOU?

If you have been away,
you can come back.

If you have been living in darkness,
you can come to the light.

If you have not been able
to believe without seeing Christ,
then look around you.

The Body of Christ has come here today.

Sinners are welcome, saints too.

For Christ is the host here today.

Christ sets the table, and Christ welcomes all!

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION



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 Brunsman 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
(443-8084 x112 or GeorgieS@stfrancisparish.com)

ST. FRANCIS ELEMENTARY

WEEKLY PRAYER SERVICE

Please join us in the church at
8:10am this Monday for our weekly
Prayer Service, led this week by our
fifth grade.



MONTHLY SCHOOL MASS

Please join us in the church at 9:00am this Thursday
for our monthly school Mass, led by our third grade.

LENTEN RETREAT FOR PARENTS

Attention all parishioner parents! You are in-
vited to join our school parents for a Lenten Parent
Retreat, led by Fr. Anthony this Wednesday, March 11,
5:30-7:30pm in Brunsman Hall. RSVP to the school
office (442-5494) by March 9. Dinner included!

FRIARY REWIRING UPDATE



The current electrical distribu-
tion plan has been determined,
and the next step is to establish
a new wiring plan for the friary
that will safely and evenly
distribute the electrical loads.

Thank you to all who have con-
tributed so far. Your donations
now total **nearly \$30,000!** If you would like to make
a contribution, please use one of the yellow envel-
opes available in your pew labeled "Friary Rewiring."

Your parish and friar communities
thank you for your generosity and concern!

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

for THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Mary Kuvakos • Ron Drum

for THOSE CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE

Stan Brozek • Claire Ferguson

for THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

for the FAITH COMMUNITY of

Sacred Heart Parish in Sacramento



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

ANNOUNCING

ST. FRANCIS ELEMENTARY PRESENTS ITS 3RD ANNUAL...



FERIA: A NIGHT IN SPAIN

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

5:30PM

ST. FRANCIS "PLAZA"

This is a celebration of Spain's rich culture, highlighting its cuisine, wines, and offering live Flamenco music and dance performances. Live and silent auctions; proceeds benefit St. Francis Elementary School. Tickets available for \$50. Ticket forms available at www.feriasacramento.com or the school office.



18TH ANNUAL FEAST FOR THE STREETS

Save the date: Wednesday, April 8, 5:30-8:30pm at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Proceeds benefit Francis House. More info or to purchase tickets: (www.francishouse.info or 443-2646).

FRANCISCAN-MINDED PEOPLE

Franciscan Action Network (FAN) is seeking people from the ministries we serve to join with Franciscans of the First Orders, Third Order Regulars, and Seculars, so that we can speak with a common voice of advocacy in Washington, D.C. on issues of peace-making, poverty, human rights, and care for creation.

Sign up and receive information on current issues via emails, electronic newsletters, action alerts, and a means to respond—suggested emails, phone numbers of representatives and senators, and talking points. More info: www.franciscanaction.org or Fr. Larry (397-0055) or pick up a flyer on the back table.



FAMILIES OF FAITH POTLUCK

MONDAY, MARCH 15

4:00-5:30 PM

PIONEER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



The St. Francis of Assisi Ecumenical and Interreligious Committee invites all to a "Families of Faith Potluck." RSVP Barbara (492-6976) or Mary (536-9753).



CAN YOU SPARE A SATURDAY MORNING A MONTH?

Our Church Cleaning Ministry could use your help in keeping the church looking beautiful. Saturday mornings, 7:30-9:30am, mopping,

vaccuuming, dusting. More info or to sign up, contact Bill: (palocolo@surewest.net). "Many hands make light work."

RIIDE NEEDED

A visually impaired parishioner needs a ride to a weekend Mass (preferably Saturday 5:15pm Mass). He lives in the Tahoe Park area near U.C. Davis Medical Center. If you can assist him this request, please call Samuel (451-9293).



GET READY FOR OUR LENTEN RETREAT!

Fr. Joe Nangle, OFM will lead our parish retreat in March (16-19). The St. Francis Merton Circle invites you to read and discuss his latest book, *Engaged Spirituality*, before the retreat.

More info: John or Barbara (482-6976).

TEENS & TECHNOLOGY/FAMILIES & FAITH

Parents are invited to a discussion at the diocesan Pastoral Center on Wednesday, Mar 18 at 6:00pm about how the use of technology affects our family and faith lives. How can we teach our teens to be responsible online citizens? How does the use of technology positively or negatively affect our relationships? Bring your questions to this important and informative evening with other parents. Dinner provided. Presentation by Mary Kay Hoal of St. James Parish in Davis / yoursphere.com. RSVP to Kevin Staszko (733-0152 or kstaszko@diocese-sacramento.org).

SINGLE ADULT MASS

5:15pm, Saturday, March 21, Holy Spirit Church. Potluck dinner follows in the parish hall. Bring your favorite potluck dish to share. Connect with other single adults and learn about Catholic singles groups in the area. More info: MaryLee (419-9845 or mbarcena@earthlink.net).

RETREAT... REFLECT... RENEW...

With the Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MOMS) regional retreat. Colleen Gregg, Director of Mercy Center Auburn will present, "Pearls of Wisdom," at St. Rose of Lima on Saturday, March 28 from 8:30am-3:30pm. All women are welcome. Register by March 23. More info: (www.sac-moms.org or 408-3480).

FINANCE AT-A-GLANCE

WEEKLY COLLECTION	Feb 28/Mar 1	\$14,356
DIRECT DEPOSIT*	March	\$6,255
YEAR-TO-DATE	July 01-June 30	\$434,441
BUILDING FUND	March	\$3,355
STEP MINISTRY	March	\$900
ASSISTANCE TO THE NEEDY	March	\$500
TAIZÉ PRAYER	March	\$30
FRANCIS HOUSE	March	\$1,480
FRIARY REWIRING	To Date	\$29,707

*\$382 Building Fund; \$390 Step Ministry; \$30 Taizé

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

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

Lenten Retreat: Engaged Spirituality

with Fr. Joseph Nangle, O.F.M.



MON-THU • MARCH 16-19

(Reconciliation Service: Thu • March 19)

7-8:30PM IN THE CHURCH

(Preceded by Simple Supper at 5:50PM
every evening in Brunsmann Hall)

SENIOR* SESSION: TUE • MARCH 17

9:30AM-Noon in Brunsmann Hall

(9:30-10:00am gathering, coffee and refreshments)

*Open to anyone unable to attend pm sessions

A Franciscan formed in the days before Vatican II, Fr. Nangle followed the call of the poor into a life- and mind-changing career in Lima, Peru where he spent 15 years organizing parish communities, true to the vision of the groundbreaking 1968 Medellin conference of Latin American bishops. In recent decades, he has lived in Washington, D.C., in the Assisi community, helping to animate the work of justice from the political center of U.S. society. Until recently, he co-directed the Franciscan Lay Mission service, which sends lay workers into Third World pastoral ministries around the globe and helps them readjust when they return.

Fr. Nangle has authored numerous books – most recently, *Engaged Spirituality: Faith Life in the Heart of the Empire*. His reflections are infused with a sense of wisdom and joy, which he links to solidarity: “Francis felt that being treated as a poor person, being mistaken for one, even by a fellow friar, was ‘perfect joy.’”

REGISTRATION FORM

– Donations gratefully accepted to help defray costs –

I/we will attend retreat: Mon-Thu Mon Tue Wed Thu Sr. Session

I/we will attend supper: Mon-Thu Mon Tue Wed Thu

I/we will need childcare: Mon-Thu Mon Tue Wed Thu

Attend St. Francis Visitor/ Attend (parish name) _____

NAME(S) _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Please place in the Sunday collection or mail to:
RETREAT St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 1066 26th St. Sacramento, CA 95816
Or Register ONLINE at www.stfrancisparish.com