



St. Francis of Assisi Parish

March 22, 2009

4th Sunday in Lent

Good Morning, Good People!

Baptism, sight and salvation are all combined in the Gospel of John this weekend. Jesus' intervention into the blind man's life is one of the rarest scenarios in the four gospels. Usually, a person approached Jesus and requested a cure, either for themselves or for someone else. Jesus is quite proactive in this situation; the blind man did not request the cure.

At certain times in our lives, God intervenes unexpectedly, and we are gifted with an opportunity to change. These interventions can come from the most unexpected of places – like nature, other people, or unforeseen circumstances or occurrences in our lives that cause us to pause and reflect. For me, it was the broken body of a butterfly that caused me to pause and reflect on my own life and how I was living it.



Jesus? Ultimately, they could not conceive of God working "outside the box." Put a different way, how could God be present in Jesus, if Jesus violated the Sabbath? (Legalistically, Jesus had "worked" on the Sabbath when Jesus kneaded the clay he smeared on the blind man's eyes.) Again we see that God's work at times occurs outside the boundaries of what we define as religion, spirituality and piety.

The blind man experienced the power of Jesus in his personal life. The blind man had the conviction that God was at work in Jesus. Because of his experience, the blind man would go on to describe Jesus as a prophet, a man from God and finally worship Jesus as the Son of Man. Experiential knowledge carries much more weight in our lives than theoretical or intellectual knowledge. The blind man's belief in the power of Jesus was unshakable, even

after being rejected by the Pharisees.

We certainly see it in the first reading from Second Chronicles where Cyrus, a pagan king, allows the Jews in exile to return to the Promised Land to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. The writer to the Ephesians also points out this principle when the author says that our salvation is totally based on the mercy and graciousness of God in Christ, even when we were sinners.

Returning to the cure of the blind man, another aspect of this story brings up an interesting question posed by a second grader last week: Didn't the people who killed Jesus see the miracles he performed? (I thought this was a very profound question for a second grader to ask.) Of course, the answer to the question is "Certainly." The Pharisees knew the blind man; they were accustomed to seeing him begging outside the temple. When asked how he was able to see, the blind man honestly told them it was Jesus who cured him after he washed in the Pool of Siloam. So what were they thinking that prevented them from believing that God was at work in

It was the blind man's rejection from the Temple that brought Jesus to again seek out the blind man. Jesus was aware that he, too, was in the process of being rejected by the Pharisees. Jesus found a person who was rejected for his convictions, and Jesus could relate, since he, too, was being rejected for his conviction, namely, that God is forgiving and merciful.

Our experiences of God form the convictions that we have about God. Some of these experiences of God occurred within religious settings and some "outside the box." Either way, they were free gifts from God and will always remain unshakable in our lives.

Ultimately, the Resurrection is the greatest experience of God "outside the box."

Happy Fourth Week of Lent,

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



How have I come to see Jesus in a deeper way this Lent?

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUN	MAR 22	After Noon Mass	Centennial Church Tour	Church
MON	MAR 23	8:10am	School Prayer Service	Church
		6:00pm	Contemplative Prayer	Parish Center Chapel
		7:00pm	Lectors	Church
TUE	MAR 24	1:00pm	Contemplative Prayer	St. Clare Chapel
		6:00pm	CIC I	Brunsmann Hall
		6:30pm	Communications Committee	Library
		7:00pm	Conscious Living for Men	Assisi Room
WED	MAR 25	6:00pm	Taizé Prayer	Church
		7:00pm	Gospel of John	St. Clare Chapel
		7:00pm	2008 Centennial Committee	Library
THU	MAR 26	10:00am	School Lenten Reconciliation Svce	Church
		12:30-2:30pm	Library Hours	Library
		6:00pm	Sacred Movement	Church
		6:30pm	RCIA Team Meeting	Assisi Room
FRI	MAR 27	6:00pm	Stations of the Cross	Church
SAT	MAR 28	7:00am	Church Cleaning Ministry	Church
		8:00am	Bread Baking Ministry	PC Kitchen
		9:00am	Tai Chi	St. Clare Chapel
		6:30pm	Lenten Community Meal	Cafeteria

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY:	Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54
TUESDAY:	Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16
WEDNESDAY:	Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
THURSDAY:	Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
FRIDAY:	Heb 13:1-8; Mk 6:14-29
SATURDAY:	Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53
SUNDAY:	Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

THIS WEEKEND

BUILDING CENTENNIAL CHURCH TOURS

THIS SUNDAY
MARCH 22
AFTER NOON
MASS - 4:00PM



Trained parishioner docents explain the stories and saints depicted in the church windows, murals, and statues, and are available to answer your questions.

OCRS CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION

This weekend, we will be collecting for Catholic Relief Services. Please help combat poverty, provide relief and development, assist refugees and immigrants, and advocate for justice and peace in situations of conflict and neglect of basic human rights worldwide by making a donation. Special envelopes are in the church pews.

THIS WEEK

ADULT FAITH FORMATION PRESENTS... **SEEING & BELIEVING: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**



WITH ANN DENHAM
THIS WEDNESDAY • MARCH 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



CONSCIOUS LIVING FOR MEN
TUESDAY, MAR 24
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).

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

WHAT'S FOR DINNER DURING LENT: 4TH SUNDAY



"Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth....Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness, rather expose them...." –Ephesians 5

DID YOU KNOW:

The slaughterhouse is considered to be the most dangerous place to work in the U.S., with an injury rate three times higher than the typical American factory. 20 years ago, meatpacking plants in the U.S. were staffed by highly-paid, unionized employees who earned about \$18/hour, adjusted for inflation. Today, low-paid, non-union workers largely staff the plants. Many start at \$6/hour, and workers often do not qualify for insurance or vacation time. According to the Pew Hispanic Center, undocumented workers may constitute 25% of the total workforce in the meatpacking industry. These workers are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

ACTION:

When you purchase meat, find out how it was raised. Download the handy "Glossary of Meat Production Methods" and put it in your wallet. Go to: www.sustainabletable.org. Read *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair (1906) or *Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser (2001). Check out the Catholic Church's Justice for Immigrants website (www.justiceforimmigrants.org).



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

COMMUNITY MEALS

SATURDAYS IN LENT
AFTER 5:15PM MASS • CAFETERIA



Join us for fellowship and a simple supper. Suggested donation is \$3/ person.



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.



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.

HOLY WEEK/TRIDUUM SCHEDULE



PASSION SUNDAY (APRIL 4/5)

5:15pm (Saturday)
7:30am • 9:30am • Noon (Sunday)
Mass with distribution of palms

HOLY THURSDAY (APRIL 9)

8:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
followed by:

9:30pm Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
(Brunsmann Hall)

NO 12:10pm Mass on Holy Thursday

GOOD FRIDAY (APRIL 10)

9:00am Sacred Silence

12:10pm Service of the Lord's Passion
w/ Veneration of the Cross & Communion
followed by Sacred Silence

3:00pm Stations of the Cross:
"Jesus Suffering and Crucified in
the Children of the World Today"

8:00pm Service of the Lord's Passion
w/ Veneration of the Cross & Communion

NO 12:10pm Mass on Good Friday

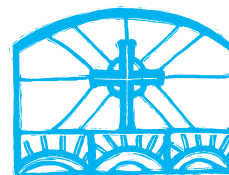
HOLY SATURDAY (APRIL 11)

8:00 pm Easter Vigil
followed by reception in Brunsmann Hall

NO scheduled confessions
or 5:15 PM Mass on Holy Saturday

EASTER SUNDAY (APRIL 12)

7:30 am, 9:30 am, Noon Mass



FRIARY REWIRING UPDATE



Our engineer is working on load calculations, striving to rebalance the electrical loads so that we can use as much of the present wiring as possible.

Thank you to all who have contributed so far. Your donations now total **over \$31,000!** If you would like to make a contribution, please use one of the yellow envelopes available in your pew labeled "Friary Rewiring."

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

NEW TO OUR PARISH?

HOSPITALITY

Join us for coffee and donuts after 9:30AM Mass in Brunsman 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.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

for THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Joan Sexton • Helen M. Harrison • Frances Nelson

for THOSE CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE

for THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

for the FAITH COMMUNITY of

St. Joseph Parish In Sacramento,
whose feast day is March 19



Prayer Request contact: Kay Skonieczny
(443-8084 x111 / KayS@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 **second** grade.

SCHOOL CHOIRS FESTIVAL

Do you enjoy young voices raised in song? Come listen to our school choir sing at the Diocesan Choral Festival at **Christian Brothers High School on Friday, Mar 27, from 10:00am - 11:30am.** This is not a competition, but an opportunity to enjoy and celebrate the talents and gifts of these children. Everyone is welcome to attend. No cost.



GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE



NEXT SUNDAY, MAR 29

AFTER 9:30AM & NOON MASSES

"Please support our school by purchasing (SCRIP) gift cards. As always, thank you from all the children at St. Francis Elementary!"

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)*

WE LOOK FORWARD TO EASTER



EASTER FLOWERS

Help us to celebrate Easter with flowers! Please use one of the offering envelopes marked "FLOWER DONATION" in your pew to contribute to our Easter Flowers Fund. Thank you!

PASSION/PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION

Before Mass on Passion (Palm) Sunday, we will gather in the park across from the church and process in together.



THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

The word Triduum (pronounced "TRIH-doo-uhm") comes from the Latin and means "three days." Triduum refers to the three most sacred days in the church year, beginning with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, reaching its high point at the Easter Vigil and concluding with evening prayer on Easter Sunday—one liturgy in three interlocking movements: we wash one another's feet (Holy Thursday), reverence the cross (Good Friday), light fires in the night, proclaim the stories of our salvation, and welcome new members into the church through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist (Easter Vigil). All are especially invited to come together as community to celebrate these sacred days.

HOLY SMOKE!

If you are allergic or sensitive to incense, please note: we will use incense during our Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil liturgies.



EASTER VIGIL RECEPTION

The RCIA Neophyte group will be in front of the church after Mass on the weekend of March 28/29, accepting donations to support the Easter Vigil Reception. As is the tradition at St. Francis, each year's Neophytes organize the reception to celebrate those newly baptized and confirmed at Easter Vigil. Your generosity is welcome, and we thank you for your donations!



HOLY THURSDAY FOOTWASHING

As part of the Holy Thursday Liturgy of the Word, we remember that moment of the Last Supper when Jesus washed the feet of the apostles. In the quiet of the first evening of Triduum, after weeks of Lenten journeying, we bathe one another's feet in warm, scented water.

Stations will be placed throughout the church as we are once again invited to do as Jesus instructed: to be washed and to wash—acts of humility and charity. Those who would like to participate will remove their shoes and socks, and wait, seated, until invited by the ushers to move towards the nearest station. Participants will have their feet washed and will then turn to wash the feet of the next person.

This is a grace-filled experience, an opportunity to practice the gospel message—to be of service to one another, especially to those who are strangers to us.



HOLY THURSDAY COLLECTION

At the beginning of Lent, the Adult Faith Formation Committee suggested that we donate money saved by not eating meat to Loaves & Fishes, and they provided special envelopes for our donations (available at the doors of the church). In addition, our Holy Thursday collection will go to feed the hungry at Loaves and Fishes.

WE WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS



Armando Guzman and Sarah Calzada
Weston Lardean
Marcie Nault
Andrea Reyes and Marco Rodriguez
Inez Sanchez

TAKE ANOTHER LOOK...

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 (443-8084 x103 or peggyc@stfrancisparish.com).

**ONLINE CHURCH HISTORY
CHAPTER 4: (c 1900-c 1910)**

What was a “city scavenger?” The “miasma” theory of disease? Why was Sacramento’s water known as “Sacramento Straight?” Where did Sacramento sewage go before there was a sewage system? Find out the answers to these questions and learn about our church in the first decade of the 20th Century in this latest chapter of our website history project (www.stfrancisparish.com/history).



Due to the many period photos, maps and other graphics that illustrate this chapter, it takes about 20 seconds to open, but it's worth the wait!

ADULT CONFIRMATION

MONDAYS • APRIL 13-MAY 18

7:00-8:00PM

PARISH CENTER LIBRARY



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 6 sessions in preparation for adult confirmation. Take this opportunity to ask questions, review our faith, and talk about the sacrament of confirmation. Call Sr. Peggy (443-8084 x103) to make an appointment for a brief conversation BEFORE the sessions begin, (before Feb 7). The fullness of the Spirit is offered to you, and the world awaits your gifts!

**INTERESTED IN JOINING
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?**

You are welcome at RCIA Inquiry. The next six-week session will be starting soon. 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. Please contact Sr. Peggy for more information (443-8084 x103 or PeggyC@stfrancisparish.com).



**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).



GLBT POTLUCK

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

AFTER 9:30AM MASS

PARISH CENTER DINING ROOM

The GLBT Outreach Ministry at St. Francis invites you to share faith, fellowship & food! All are welcome. More info: Kay (443-8084 x111).

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



FERIA: A NIGHT IN SPAIN

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

5:30PM

ST. FRANCIS “PLAZA”

Celebrate Spain’s rich culture— its cuisine, wines, and (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.

RIDE 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).

**BUILDING FRANCISCAN
ECOLOGICAL CONSCIOUSNESS**



with Fr. Franking Fong, OFM and Bro. James Lockman, OFM. May 29-30 at San Damiano Retreat. This retreat will offer a variety of

ways to enter more deeply into right relationship with Nature. More info or to register: www.sandamiano.org or (925) 837-9141. Flyers are in the church literature racks.

FRANCISCAN-MINDED PEOPLE

Franciscan Action Network (FAN) is seeking people to join with us in speaking 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.



FINANCE AT-A-GLANCE

WEEKLY COLLECTION	Mar 14/15	\$9,637
DIRECT DEPOSIT*	March	\$6,255
YEAR-TO-DATE	July 01-June 30	\$453,354
BUILDING FUND	March	\$5,144
STEP MINISTRY	March	\$2,595
TAIZÉ PRAYER	March	\$50
FRANCIS HOUSE	March	\$1,480
FRIARY REWIRING	To Date	\$31,577

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

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