IS HELL CROWDED OR EMPTY? A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE

"Catholic doctrine is that Hell exists, but yet the Church has never claimed to know if any human being is actually in Hell. When the Church says that Hell exists, it means that the definitive rejection of God's love is a real possibility. "Hell" or "Gehenna" are spatial metaphors for the lonely and sad condition of having definitively refused the offer of the divine life. But is there anyone in this state of being? We don't know for sure. We are in fact permitted to hope and to pray that all people will finally surrender to the alluring beauty of God's grace." Bishop Robert Barron, March 30, 2011

In our Gospel this Sunday, an unidentified man whom Jesus met as he journeyed to Jerusalem asked: "Will only a few people be saved?" As is often the case, Jesus responds indirectly: ***"strive to enter the narrow gate."*** Jesus continues with other metaphors, concluding with the memorable statement: ***"...some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."***

The truth is— a life for, in, and with God does <u>not</u> happen purely by accident. Rather, it comes about when we strive to *"be the best that we can be"*—when we strive to **embrace and live as the authentic person God calls us to be**. The gate is *"narrow"* <u>not</u> because God wants to keep us from the kingdom, but rather it is narrow because living a life of faith involves **living in a particular way**, thinking in a particular way, and seeing in a particular way.

If we truly strive to absolutely *"be the best we can be"* when it comes to everything God calls us to: love, mercy, kindness, generosity, compassion, forgiveness— then we can be (humbly) confident of **every good thing awaiting us** when our God takes our hand and leads us through the narrow gate of the kingdom.

Fr. Matt

SPEAK TO ME LORD

Today's Readings
Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
Reading I
Isaiah 66:18-21
Reading II
Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13
Gospel
Luke 13:22-30

Next Weekend's Readings
Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Reading I
Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29
Reading II
Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a
Gospel
Luke 14:1, 7-14

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday **9:00—4:00 PM**
Staff Direct Line 408-223-1770 **+ extension**

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408-270-4900
Sr. Patricia Galli, RSM
Spiritual Direction and Retreats
pagrsm@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, August 26, 8:30am
John Bui +
Corazon Andrade Banzon+
Nathan Hashimoto+
Tuesday, August 27, 8:30am
Josefa Concepcion Salaño +
Filomena Concepcion +
Licerio Cruz +
Wednesday, August 28, 8:30am
John Bui +
Delia Nicolas Jaminal+
Florencia R. Jaminal +
Thursday, August 29, 8:30am
Anna Quynh Giao Pham - SI (birthday)
Teofilo Medrano+
Kenneth Wayne Allen+
Friday, August 30, 8:30am
Margrat Paul +
Rosita Uy+
Salustiana Rulona+
Saturday, August 31, 8:30am
Augustino Mt Quan Tran+
Francis of Xavier Nguyen Han+
John and Lillian Brooks+
Saturday/Sunday, Aug 31-Sept 1
5:00 Vigil, Chapel
Ty (Tee) Pham +
John Bui +
Joseph Hanh Pham+
8:15am Villages
8:30am Chapel
Juan Torres+
Roger Tabilas+
9:00am Gathering Hall
Rosemarie S. Noza +
Juan Torres+
9:30am Grange Hall
Juan Torres+
10:30am Chapel
Elpidio De Jesus +
John Bui +
Charles Chavtur+
11:00am Gathering Hall
Trinidad Roque +
Juan Torres+
12:30pm Chapel
John Bui +
Juan Torres+
2:00pm Spanish Mass
Juan Torres+
4:00pm Vietnamese Mass
Ignacio Pham Van Tuong +
6:00pm Chapel
Juan Torres+

Reflections

"For behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last." *(Luke 13:30)*

Our standards in society are different from God's standards. We often rank people by what they have, how powerful they are, or how successful they are. Jesus reminds us that God will not judge us by the same earthly standards. When God asks you, "what have you done with the gifts I have given you?" How will you respond?

"Porque, los últimos serán los primeros, y los primeros serán los últimos".
(LUCAS 13:30)

Nuestros estándares en la sociedad son diferentes de los estándares de Dios. A menudo clasificamos a las personas por lo que tienen, lo poderosos que son o lo exitosos que son. Jesús nos recuerda que Dios no nos juzgará por los mismos estándares terrenales. Cuando Dios te pregunta, "¿qué has hecho con los dones que te he dado?" ¿Cómo responderás?

stewardship

August 10-11 (511 envelopes)

Offertory	$14,912.58
Mortgage	$ 160.00
St. Francis Fund	$ 80.00
Assumption	$ 135.00
2nd Collection (Africa)	$ 6,258.00

If you are interested in donating on-line, please visit our webpage at www.sfoasj.com and click on

Online Giving

Or scan

to get started with this convenient giving option.

Thank you in advance for your generous giving.

September 1, 2019

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Chapel

5:00pm – Fr. Vu
8:30am – Msgr. Mitchell
10:30am – Fr. Vu
12:30pm – Msgr. Cilia
2:00pm (Spanish) – Fr. Stanley
4:00pm (Vietnamese) – Fr. Vu
6:00pm – Fr. Stanley

Gathering Hall

9:00am – Fr. Stanley
11:00am – Msgr. Cilia

Ecclesial Communities

8:15am (Villages) – Fr. Syjueco
9:30am (Grange) – Fr. Syjueco

From the Desk of our Pastor, Fr. Matthew Stanley

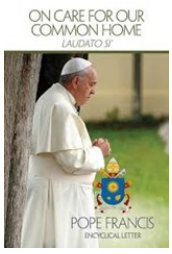
Faith Formation for Children & Teens – Register this Month

As your Pastor, I want to encourage all parents and guardians to also make plans for your children's ongoing faith formation, as our own programs commence in just a couple of weeks. Your parish stands ready to help you in fulfilling this pledge. Over the summer, our Faith Formation Staff (Lisa, Lerma, and Kevin) have been hard at work preparing for this new year of learning and living our Catholic faith. We have programs for children in pre-school through high school. Our vision of faith formation is structured to engage children and youth in a process that is instructional, challenging, and fun. Please refer to the Sunday Bulletin or our parish website for more information.

Thank You from Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County

Our final figures from the 2018 Catholic Charities Appeal are in, and I am delighted to let you know that the total contributions made to Catholic Charites from the generous members of St. Francis of Assisi Parish were $16,031. With the support of partners like you, Catholic Charities raised a grand total of $243,892. It is such a blessing to have Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County in our midst and offering hope to our neighbors in need that were helped last year. Thanks to you, we are changing lives for good.



World Day of Prayer 2019 • *"All God's Creation Is Very Good!"* – Pope Francis

On this Day of Prayer, I wish first to thank the Lord for the gift of our common home and for all those men and women of good will committed to protecting it. I am likewise grateful for the many projects aimed at promoting the study and the safeguarding of ecosystems, for the efforts being made to develop more sustainable agriculture and more responsible nutrition, and for the various educational, spiritual and liturgical initiatives that involve Christians throughout the world in the care of creation.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish - August Update

ADA 2019 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

Parish Goal: $185,000
Pledges: $270,051 – Paid: $216,310
Anticipated Refund: $86,044

Please keep making your regular payments. When all our pledges have been paid, St. Francis of Assisi will use our rebate to reduce parish debt and fund continuing improvements to our parish facilities. Thank you for your support of Bishop Cantú and our local Church

Stewardship of Treasure Report – July 2019

Thank you to everyone who supported the mission and ministries of our parish during the month of July. Our average weekly collection was $20,089. You also generously donated to various important causes in our July 2nd Collections in the amount of $20,298 ($4,059 a week.) This brings our July total to $24,148 a week. We budgeted our Sunday Offertory income for the first month of the new fiscal year (4 weeks) at $80,000 and received $80,356. Any additional income helps us to pay-down our $2.3 million debt. We are totally dependent upon you all our parishioners for our livelihood. We are so grateful for the sacrifices you make so that the work of St. Francis of Assisi Parish may continue to impact the lives of so many.

First Sunday of the Month – Second Collection – Mortgage Debt Reduction

Next Sunday, there will be a second collection to reduce our $2.3 million-dollar parish debt. At the conclusion of the prior fiscal year, due to the generous donors to the Shine the Light campaign, we made a $200,000 principal payment.
We also made monthly principal & interest payments of $225,000 ($93,000 of those dollars were from the first of the month mortgage debt reduction collection). An additional payment of $49,000 was made from our 2018 ADA rebate. We also received an $875,000 estate gift designated for debt reduction. Thus, our total debt was reduced by $1,350,000 over the last twelve months! The sooner we pay off this debt, the more funds we will have available to support other vital services in our growing parish. Thank you for your generosity.

Maintenance Worker St. Francis of Assisi Parish –
Skills: Custodial/Janitorial/Maintenance experience. Knowledge of cleaning techniques and safety procedures, ability to lift up to 50 lbs. and pass a background check, possess strong communication, comprehension, and interpersonal skills. Have the flexibility to adjust their schedule to suit the needs of the church and motivation to work independently or with others to provide thorough, efficient custodial services to the church. Work schedule will require to work weekends and outside of regular business hours. Job Type: Full-time; Salary: $16 to $18 /hour. Contact: Phil McAllister 408-223-1770x313

From the Pastoral Center

Book Club

Please join us in reading ***'Born a Crime' by Trevor Noah*** for our next meeting on September 3. For info call Donna (408)238-6681.

Interested in Infant Baptisms?

We are looking for volunteer greeters and coordinators for the English, Vietnamese and Spanish baptisms. Baptisms are on Saturday mornings.
If you are interested or would like more information please contact Gillian in the parish office or email ggriffis@dsj.org.

A Get-Away Weekend!

Marriage Encounter

Do you need a vacation? Give yourself and your spouse time away from the pressures of work and everyday responsibilities. Enjoy a chance to talk and listen to that special someone who loves you! The **next Marriage Encounter Weekends** include: **Nov 8-10, in Menlo Park, and Sep 13-15, in Concord**. For more information and/or to register for a Weekend, visit our website at **sanjosewwme.org** or contact **Ken & Claranne** at **applications@sanjosewwme.org** or **408-782-1413**.

The RCIA Team needs your help!

Do you like working with Adults? Do you have a love for Christ and want to share it? Have you yourself gone through the RCIA process?

The Rite of Christian Initiation Team is looking for bilingual Vietnamese and Spanish speakers to join our team. The commitment is twice a month from 9:00am-10:30am on Sundays. You would be trained by a team leader to share the Sunday Gospel and certain teachings of our Catholic faith.

Please contact Lisa Nakamura at lnakamura@dsj.org or 408 223-1770 x316.

Children's Liturgy of the Word S.O.S.

Every Sunday the children of our parish are given the opportunity to explore Sundays Gospel at their level of understanding. If your children enjoy this program, we ask that you give one hour a month to this special ministry. Many of our CLOW catechist are retiring and we thank them. Please contact Lisa Nakamura at 408 224-1770 x316 or lnakamura@dsj.org.

Sacrament of Confession- En Español

We would like to invite you to come to the Sacrament of Confession in Spanish. Fr. Rudy will be available at 6pm every first Friday of the month and after 2pm Sunday Mass when he's the presider.

Nos gustaría invitarlos al sacramento de la confesión en español. El padre Rudy estará disponible a las 6pm el primer viernes de cada mes y después de misa de 2pm los domingos que él celebre la misa.

What's Happening

Daily:

Rosary-*Monday-Saturday, 8AM, Chapel*
Divine Mercy-*Monday-Saturday, 7:50AM Chapel*

Weekly:

AA-*Mondays, 7PM Fireside Room*
Adoration *First Friday, Chapel, 9am-5pm, All other Fridays in Garden Rooms, 9am-5pm*
Legion of Mary (English) *Wednesday, 8PM, EV 2-3*
Legion of Mary (Español) *Thursday, 7PM, Evergreen 3*
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena Mass *Wednesday, 7pm, Chapel*
SFOA Lectio Divina *Wednesdays, 10AM, Chapel*
Marian Intercessory Prayer Group *Thursdays, 9:15AM, Chapel*
Prayer Shawl Ministry, *Thursdays, 4PM, Fireside Room*

Monthly:

13th of Month Rosary Group *One complete Rosary after 8:30 AM Mass each month*
Book Group, *First Tuesday, 7:30PM Fireside Room*
Filipino Ministry Team (FMT) *Third Thursday, 6pm, Garden Rooms*
Holy Family Institute *First Saturday, 2-4PM, EV1-EV2*
Ministry of Consolation and Bereavement : *Off for the Summer. Will resume in September*
Spanish Ministry : *First Monday , 7PM, Gathering Hall*
Social Justice: *Fourth Monday, 7PM, Garden Rooms*

Feast Day, Raffle and Casino Royale 2019

Top 3 WINNERS

1st Place: $2,000 2nd Place: $1,000
3rd Place: $500

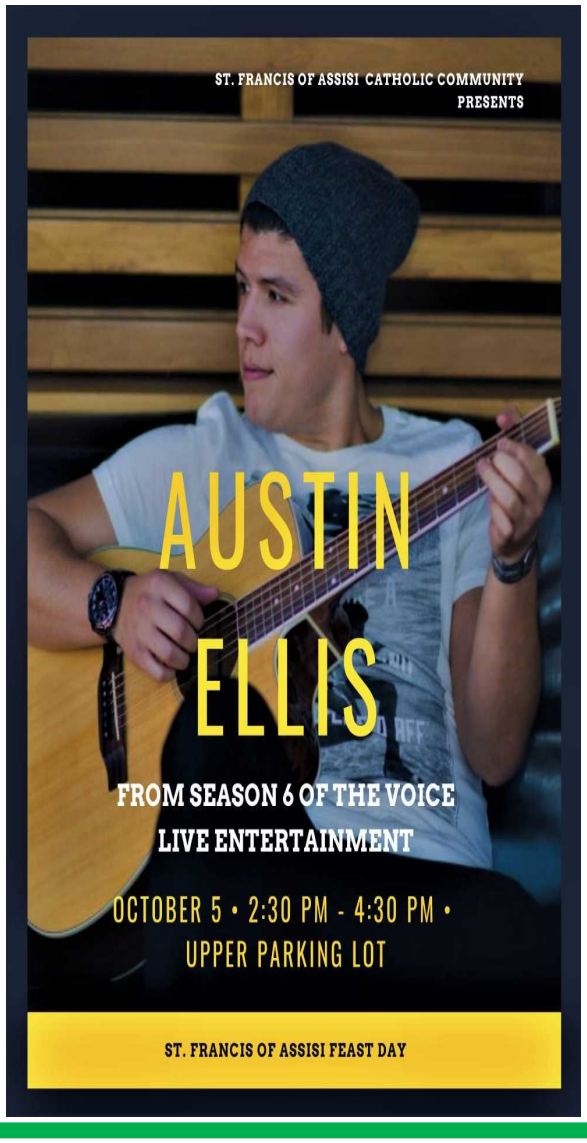
TICKETS: $70 per person includes $25 voucher for chips, gift bag, appetizers, 1 free drink ticket

UPGRADES AT EVENT

Access to High Roller Room	$50*
$100 Chips	$20
$250 Chips	$40
$500 Chips	$60

TICKETS ON SALE IN THE PARISH OFFICE

***High Roller Room**
Private Bar
Champagne
Premium Appetizers
3 free drinks
5 additional raffle tickets
Commemorative Chip



From the Pastoral Center

Raffle tickets is now on sale after Mass and in the parish office Monday through Friday from 9AM to 4:00PM, close for lunch from 12:00pm to 1:00PM. We still accept mail orders. Don't miss your chance to win the first Early Bird Drawing of $300 cash and many more cash prizes, including the Grand prize of $30,000.

Scan. Donate. Done.

Powered by PayBee

paybee.io/@sfoasj@13

St. Francis of Assisi Parish 25th Anniversary Raffle!!

ENTER FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!

Drawing to be held "FEAST DAY WEEKEND" Sunday October-6

CASH SWEEPSTAKES $50 Donation per ticket*

Grand Prize: $30,000 Cash!

2nd Prize: $1,000 Cash 3rd Prize: $500 Cash

*Only **2000** tickets will be issued.

BONUS BUNDLE BOOKLET $150 Donation per Bundle*

1st Prize: $1,000 Cash 2nd Prize: $700 Cash 3rd Prize: $500 Cash

*Get 3 tickets and receive 1 bonus ticket in the Bonus Bundle Booklet to enter in an additional drawing for these fabulous prizes. Only **600** Bonus Bundles will be issued.

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

Get your tickets early and to be entered into our Early Bird Drawing for more chances to win!

Early Bird Prize: $300 Cash

Early Bird Drawing Dates: Monday September 9 and September 16

PLEASE JOIN US

We will be walking in support of NAMI Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. All proceeds benefit NAMI Santa Clara and NAMI San Mateo. We are walking to raise awareness of mental illness and raise funds for the important work of NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Please JOIN OUR TEAM and walk with us, or support our team by making a donation to a team member listed on our ROSTER. Donations on this page are fast, secure and easy. All funds raised directly support the mission of NAMI to provide support, education, and advocacy to individuals and families right here in community.
We are Team St. Francis of Assisi Mental Health Ministry (SFoA Mental Health Ministry as noted in the attached link below).

www.namiwalks.org/team/SFoAmentalhealthministry

It is free to register. All are welcome. If you raise $100 as an individual, you will receive an event T-Shirt. Hope to see you there!

Here is some further information from NAMI : **In 2019, we are celebrating 17 years of NAMIWalks, the nation's largest mental health awareness and fundraising event. We invite you to join us for any of our close to 100 community walks. NAMIWalks is a fun, family-friendly event and there is no cost to register.** There are multiple ways you can make a difference with NAMIWalks: as a sponsor, committee member, team captain, team member, individual walker, or volunteer! However you participate in NAMIWalks, you will be joining NAMI's movement to raise awareness of mental illness and raise funds for our mission to help individuals and families right here in our region.
Location: Guadalupe River Park/ Arena Green West N Autumn St., San Jose, Ca 95113
Event Time: Check-in: 8:30am, Start time: 10:30am