

THE EMPTY TOMB



The worth of our lives as Christians relies on the event we call the Resurrection of our Lord. As Saint Paul puts it, "if Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, your faith" (1 Cor 15:14). Because of this dependence of our faith on the Resurrection the apostles are at pains to show us that Jesus truly rose from the dead and that he plainly showed himself to them and too many others after his resurrection.

We must follow the pattern set for us by Christ. We must rise from our present tombs as he rose from his. We must allow ourselves to be raised from our tombs by grace and through our cooperation with grace. What might these tombs be?

We know what Jesus' tomb was and what put him there. What about our own tombs? Who put us in them? And why might some of us still be in them or only halfway out of them?

Our tombs are varied as the moods of the human heart. Our tomb may be our consuming self pride. Or it may be the tomb of excessive drinking. It may be the tomb of drug addiction. It may be the tomb of a violent or abusive relationship or the despair of ever "coming out." It may be the tomb of fear, in the sense that we are so accustomed now to our particular tomb that we are afraid someone may come along and roll back the stone and expose us to the challenge of living a fully committed Christian life.

In Matthew's version of the Resurrection, the angel says to Mary of Magdala, "Do not be afraid" (28:5). These words are spoken to us, too. Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid to leave whatever tomb still holds you. Do not be afraid of following your Lord in the power of his resurrection grace. You do not have to continue celebrating Easter with one foot still in your tomb, thereby receiving less than the full measure of the Easter joy that the Lord wants you to have.

Our entire Parish Staff joins in extending to you our best wishes and all the joy of Easter. Since Easter is fifty days long, we will have many opportunities to greet you personally and to thank you for the life you bring to St. Francis of Assisi Parish. We extend a word of appreciation to all who made donations of, or offerings toward our Easter flowers and plants, to all those involved in our Triduum Liturgies, as well as those who decorated our worship spaces. Thanks to all who sacrificed to make our Holy Week as prayerful, enjoyable, and inviting as it has been.

We also extend a warm welcome to those who are visitors to our Parish. We are happy you chose to celebrate Easter with us. We extend an invitation to you to become a regular part of our Parish community. The bulletin cover lists our Mass times and phone numbers. Visit our website at sfoasj.org. Please call us if we can help. Welcome, again, and a Blessed Easter to you.

Rev. Matthew D. Stanley, Pastor

☞ OFFICE HOURS

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

☞ STAFF

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Find us on
Facebook

stewardship

March 20-26 , 2023

Offertory	\$ 11,404.00
Online	\$ 5,375.00
Mail	\$ 555.00
Catholic Relief Service	\$ 700.00
St. Francis Fund	\$ 4,832.00
Easter	\$ 831.00
Villages	\$ 299.00
Holy Thursday	\$ 25.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 25.00

Total \$23,596.00

*Thank you in advance
for your generous giving.*

You may not be here every Sunday, but your generous contributions are needed to help cover our regular operating expenses. We invite you to sign up for automated recurring offertory contributions. To do so, choose any one of the simple and convenient giving options. Simply go to www.sfoasj.com on any device and click on the Online Giving button.

Or Scan this QR Code with your mobile device.



Or Text "Give" to 408-479-5858 on your phone

Or If you would like an account to be created for you, please contact our Parish Business/Operations Manager Victor Espinoza at 408-223-1770, ext. 302. Get started today and ensure that your generous contributions are received even if you are not here. It's quick, easy, and convenient!



Stewardship of Treasure Report – March 2023

March ends the third quarter of the fiscal year. Thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministries of our parish. During the month of **March**, our average weekly collection was **\$20,023 (2.5% decrease vs. Feb. 23)**. You also generously donated to various important causes in our **March** second collections at **\$18,636 (\$4,659 a week.)** This brings our **March** weekly average to **\$24,682**. We budgeted our Sunday Offertory income for the current fiscal year **(38 weeks x \$16,000)** at **\$608,000** and received **\$747,000 (+\$139,000)**. We have budgeted the extra income for the continuing maintenance and improvements to our parish campus buildings and grounds. As you know, we are dependent upon your practice of good stewardship to fulfill our parish mission. The love that these gifts represent will enable us to continue the work that we must undertake here at St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

Offertory by Mass (per week): January – March 2023 – Third Quarter

Saturday, 4:00pm \$1,591; 5:30pm \$538; Sunday 8:00am \$1,488; 8:15am \$549 9:00am \$1,023; 10:00am \$1,891; 11:00am \$1,037; 12:00pm \$1,757; 2:00pm \$597;



FINANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Finance Advisory Council (FAC) is a consultative body to the pastor. It has the mission and duty of being good stewards— overseeing and advising the Pastor about the treasure entrusted to him on behalf of us all. It meets every other month.

We are currently on the lookout for a few new members. The basic qualifications are:

- 1) Registered and active member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish;
- 2) A willingness to make recommendations for the good of the whole community without recourse to any special interest group;
- 3) One who has demonstrated the ability to work well within a group.

Please submit your notice of interest to Fr. Matt (mstanley@dsj.org).

Deadline is June 30, 2023.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ♦ **Daily Rosary and Prayer** 8:00AM, Chapel
- ♦ **Adoration**, First Friday of month, 9:30AM-5:00PM, Chapel
- ♦ **Our Lady of Perpetual Help** Wednesdays, Chapel Rosary/Novena/Mass 6:30PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)

Saturdays, 11am - 12pm, Chapel

IMPORTANT CONTACTS:

Crisis Mental Health Services
988

Suicide Hotlines

Santa Clara County 855-278-4204

Text Line: 741741

(Text "BAY" for Crisis Support in Bay Area)

California Youth Crisis

800-843-5200

Santa Clara County Emergency
Psychiatric Service (EPS)

485-885-6100

NAMI Warm Line

(open Mon-Fri, 10AM-6PM)

408-453-0400

The Peace Prayer of St. Francis



Lord, make me an
instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred,
let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to
be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are
pardoned, and it is in dying that we
are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK, FR. MATTHEW D. STANLEY

Sunday Mass Schedule Change



We have decided at this time, effective today, to suspend both the 9am and 11am Masses on Sunday. We have stretched our resources beyond our abilities to provide the best Sunday liturgical experience for our people.

I know this is going to cause a bit of turmoil with your schedules, but we are simply running thin on priests, liturgical ministers, and music groups. We've tried as long as we can to sustain our eleven Masses Sunday schedule. As the saying goes, "quality vs. quantity."

Overflow seating at the 8am, 10am, and 12pm Masses will provide adequate seating. We will continue to provide nine Masses every Sunday (2 on Saturday and 7 on Sunday). Thank you for your understanding.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS



who shared in the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil
Those Celebrating Full Christian Initiation Baptism, Confirmation, and

Eucharist

**Arianna Alvarado, Luc Marquez, Catherine Nguyen
Michael Perazzo**

*Those Received into Full Communion of the Catholic Church
Confirmation and Eucharist*

Andrew Goodman



**EASTER MONDAY HOLIDAY
APRIL 10, 2023
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

GET READY FOR DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – APRIL 16



The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. God loves us – all of us, and he wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy. **We will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 1pm to 3pm, concluding with Benediction. We will pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3pm. Please join us in the Gathering Hall.**



PASTORAL PLANNING

UPDATE: Since February, Bishop, the steering committee and

commission have discerned and analyzed the results from January's Diocesan Synod Assembly. As a result, in order to properly consult and engage key stakeholders in feedback on these key priorities, it was decided to defer

the announcement of the Pastoral Plan from June to December to allow for the broad discernment and dialogue throughout the process as the Bishop desires. The new timeline with the key phases of the planning process over the next nine months can be found on the diocese's website at: www.dsj.org/pastoral-planning.

REMEMBERING A LOVED ONE during Easter is always



foremost in our minds. Would you consider making a donation toward our Easter flowers as special intention or in memory of a deceased family member or friend? Special Easter Flower envelopes are now available.

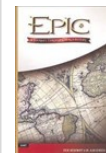
THE INSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP IN MINISTRY is a 3-year course of study for the laity. The ILM provides training and faith formation for lay leaders in the Church. The theological base for this program is found in the documents of the Second Vatican Council. Responding to their

baptismal call, graduates return to their parish to serve in various leadership roles in Liturgy, Catechetics, Social Justice, Pastoral Care, as well as many others. We plan to continue sending laypersons to the Institute for Leadership in Ministry. If you feel called to explore this possibility, we are looking for a few qualified candidates for the new ILM academic year, which begins in the fall. Please contact Fr. Matt (mstanley@dsj.org) for more information.

If the Eucharist contains the physical presence of Christ's Body and Blood, doesn't that mean Catholics are cannibals?



This very old charge against Catholics dates all the way back to pagan critics of the early Church. In the third century, Origen accused the pagan critic Celsus of acting "like those Jews who, when Christianity began to be first preached, scattered abroad false reports of the Gospel, such as that Christians offered up an infant in sacrifice, and partook of its flesh." In the second century, St. Justin Martyr responded to Jewish critics who accused Christians of "fabulous and shameful deeds—the upsetting of the lamp, and promiscuous intercourse, and eating human flesh." (more next Sunday).



**Next EPIC Church History Class
Tuesday, April 11 at 7pm
Fireside Room**

He is Risen

DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM.
Rejoice in the resurrection of

Jesus Christ.



WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND JOY FILLED EASTER!

Happy Easter



DOES THE CHURCH RECOGNIZE MY MARRIAGE?



Like other couples in our parish or family, you may be wondering if your marriage is fully recognized by the Catholic Church. Catholic Church law ordinarily requires baptized Roman Catholics to marry before a priest or deacon. Unless they received a “dispensation from canonical form,” Catholics who exchange vows in the presence of ministers from other religious traditions or civil officials are not considered validly married in the eyes of the Catholic Church. Regardless of what happened in the past, the Catholic Church invites you to bring new meaning to your lives by embracing the vocation of marriage and dedicating your family’s mission to sharing God’s love. Contact Deacon Joe Cabrido at joseph.cabrido@dsj.org for more information.

WEDDING MINISTRY

Our parish is fortunate to have a few dedicated Wedding Coordinators. We are currently in need of assistance. The coordinators schedule themselves

for wedding rehearsals and are also there to assist the bride and groom along with their bridal party & priest on the day of their wedding. Are you interested in joining this ministry? If so, please contact Suzanne Fitzgerald at Suzanne.Fitzgerald@dsj.org or 408.223.1770 ext 312



April 16, 2023

Divine Mercy Sunday
Saturday (Anticipated)

4:00pm – Fr. Stanley

5:30pm – Fr. Vu
(Vietnamese)



Sunday

8:00am – Msgr. Mitchell

8:15am – Fr. Stanley (Villages)

10:00am – Fr. Vu

12:00pm – Fr. Stanley

2:00pm – Fr. Ruiz

4:00pm – Fr. Vu (Vietnamese)

6:00pm – Fr. Stanley (Youth)

Sunday Bulletin

the Sunday Bulletin remains an important source of our parish communications, we also provide two other

excellent sources of timely information: our parish website at <http://www.sfoasj.com/> and our weekly Constant Contact email of parish news and events. It is sent to 3000 parish families each week. If you are interested in receiving this weekly email, send an email request to rosie.olivas@dsj.org.

FAITH FORMATION

APRIL FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE

- **Sunday, April 23**, First Eucharist session 8:00am,
- **Sunday April 30**, Children Liturgy of the Word 8:00am

April 9, 2023

Easter Reflection on the Gospel

Today, we join with the whole Church to celebrate Easter, the greatest feast of all, the feast of Christ's rising from the dead. As the women were walking to Jesus tomb, they were consumed with sadness for their friend and Messiah who had been killed. When they arrived, however, nothing was as they expected it. The earth shook, an angel appeared, and he proclaimed the most glorious news! Jesus was not dead. His love for us was so great, he died and then conquered death. He as alive. His light would never go out again. They were told to "Go tell" because this light is meant to be shared. That is reason to exclaim, Alleluia! Praise to the risen King!

Family Reflection Question?

After the women were told about Jesus rising from the dead, they were told to "Go tell" this good news. How can we also "Go tell" this good news?

GO OUT TO ALL THE
WORLD AND TELL
THE GOOD NEWS

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



Monday, April 10

Dr. Ernesto Yap Lee Sr.+
Sr. Remedios Encarnacion+
Bert & Remy Soriano (Safe travels to Philippines)

Tuesday, April 11

Lidwine and Francisco da Silva (Wedding Anniversary)
Dinh Family (Peace and Holiness)

Joseph Melanson+

Wednesday, April 12

Nana Tossouve+
Bill Madden+

Danny Pacquing+

Thursday, April 13

Nila Fajilan (bday)

Friday, April 14

Victor Espino (Health/Healing)
Maria Paz Amante Caraos+

Saturday, April 15

Mary Santos+

Saturday/Sunday, April 15-16 4PM

Anton Tuyen Vu +
Consolacion Yap+
Victor Espino (Health/Healing)

5:30PM

Teresa Pauline Nguyen+

8AM Chapel

Roch Kim Nguyen+
Ron Davis+

8:15 Villages

Don Roberts+

10AM Chapel

Johanna Castle+
Victor Espino (Health/Healing)
John Bui+, David and Ty Pham+

Joseph Tha Nguyen+
Maria Oanh Nguyen+
Isave Nam Nguyen+

12PM Chapel

Jaime Caricungan+
Tony Lu+
Bibiana and Teodoro Mendoza+
Patricia A. Stanley+

Tim and Rosel Jarvis (Wedding Anniversary)
Gabriella Jarvis (SI)

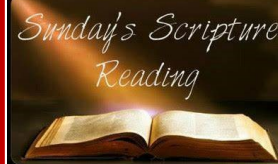
2PM Chapel (Spanish)

Emilio and Reyna Sanchez (40th Anniversary)

4PM Chapel (Vietnamese)

Anton Tuyen Vu +
Anthony Vu Thien Hung+

6PM Chapel



Today's Readings

(Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord)

Reading I:

Acts of the Apostles
10:34a, 37-43

Reading II:

1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

Gospel:

John 20:1-9

Next Week's Readings

(Second Sunday of Easter)

Reading I:

Acts of the Apostles
2:42-47

Reading II:

Peter 1:3-9

Gospel:

John 20:19-31

Due to the changes in the Mass schedule. All Mass Intentions scheduled for the 9AM Masses have been moved to the 10AM Masses and the 11AM Mass intentions to the 12PM Masses. Sorry for any inconvenience.



LEGION OF MARY

Our Lady of Perpetual Help is hosted by Legion of Mary every Wednesday in the Chapel, with a Rosary/Novena at 6:30PM followed by Mass.

EASTER WORD SEARCH



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH MEMORIAL GARDEN

"It is in dying that we are born to eternal life"
- St. Francis of Assisi

The Memorial Garden is a place for the cremated remains of those who have gone before us, and to memorialize others who have died but are buried elsewhere. St. Francis is unique in offering this service to the Catholic Community.

This Garden space is set aside because those who have died form with us the Communion of Saints and are always present with us in prayer. We stand with all people, both living and dead, to sing our one song of praise to God for those who have died with Christ, have risen with Him and for the one Spirit that binds us together as one people.

The Garden is a quiet space in which you can pray and remember those who have died. We also honor the four periods and peoples of the history of Evergreen: the Ohlone Native Peoples, the Spanish and Mexican settlers, the ranchers and vintners, and those who have developed the land and reside here now.

If you would like information about the Memorial Garden, please contact **Gillian Griffis** (Monday-Wednesday, Friday, 9:00AM-4:00PM) to schedule an appointment at ggriffis@dsj.org, or 408.223.1770, ext 324.

PAVING STONES

Also part of the Memorial Garden are paving stones and the Stations of the Cross. If you wish to fill out an order form for the paving stones, you can download the order form (<https://www.sfoasj.com/paving-stones-order-form>) and mail it or drop it by the office.

