



WALKING IN SIMPLE JOY | A REFLECTION BY FR. VINCENT PINEDA

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." - John 1:29

My Dear St. Francis of Assisi Family,

Today John the Baptist offers testimony about Jesus, using language that shapes Christian understanding of salvation: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." These words, which we echo at every Mass before communion, carry profound theological meaning.

The "Lamb of God" imagery evokes multiple biblical themes. It recalls the Passover lamb whose blood protected Israelite homes in Egypt, leading to liberation from slavery. It echoes Isaiah's suffering servant, "like a lamb led to slaughter" for the sins of others. It points forward to Jesus' sacrificial death, which brings freedom from sin's slavery.

St. John declares that this Lamb "takes away the sin of the world" – not just covers it or manages it, but removes it. The Greek verb suggests lifting up and carrying away, like the scapegoat bearing Israel's sins into the wilderness. Jesus doesn't just forgive individual sins; he addresses sin as a power that holds humanity captive.

St. John's testimony continues: "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him." The Spirit's remaining or abiding on Jesus is significant. Prophets received the Spirit temporarily for specific tasks, but the Spirit dwells permanently in Jesus, empowering his entire ministry.

This same Spirit, John notes, will characterize Jesus' own baptism: "He is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit." Jesus doesn't just baptize with water but imparts the Spirit, transforming heart and empowering discipleship. St. John's witness is crucial: "I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God." John's role is to point beyond himself to Jesus. True ministry always directs attention not to ourselves but to Christ.

As we settle into Ordinary Time, this Gospel reminds us that our "ordinary" weeks are actually shaped by extraordinary realities. We live as those redeemed by the Lamb of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and called to testify to Christ with our lives.

This week, let us consider:

How do we experience Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away sin? How is the Holy Spirit active in our life? And how can we, like John, point others toward Christ through our words and actions?

Blessings,

Fr. Vincent

☞ OFFICE HOURS

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UPCOMING PRESIDER SCHEDULE AND FEATURE ARTICLE

January 24-25, 2026,
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Presiders Subject to Change)

SATURDAY VIGIL

4:00PM Fr. Vincent Pineda
5:30PM (Vietnamese) Fr. Phong Nguyen

SUNDAY

8:00 AM Fr. Vincent Pineda w/Dcn. Andrzej
8:15AM (Villages) Msgr. Michael Mitchell
10:00AM Fr. Vincent Pineda w/Dcn. Sunny
12:00PM Fr. Phong Nguyen
2:00PM (Spanish) Fr. Rudy Ruiz
4:00PM (Vietnamese) Fr. Phong Nguyen
6:00PM Fr. Francis Kalaw

A CHURCH THAT ISN'T CRYING...



Therese Bao

Hello again, St. Francis of Assisi Parish! It is lovely to be back, serving our community through working with our young people. Now that I have a little one of my own, I am more convinced than ever that “a Church that isn’t crying is dying.” Though they may cry, fidget, or make dinosaur growling noises during Mass, it is so important that we — as parents, grandparents, and caregivers — provide them every opportunity to grow in their relationship with Jesus and in their relationship with the community

In late fall of 2025, my son, Caelio (*chay-leo*), received the Sacrament of Baptism! It was a bit nerve-wracking for me leading up to the Baptismal Mass. I was worried about the little details and entertained hypotheticals in my head such as “*What if he cries during the mass?*” or “*What if he needs a diaper change right before everything starts?*” Every sacramental celebration acts as a sign, with all external elements pointing to an inner reality of abundant grace. I was so focused on the external aspects of the Sacrament that I forgot to reflect on the inner reality that was about to unfold.

Caelio surprised all of us during the Trinitarian Rite, reminding everyone present that God was truly working. He had been a bit fussy leading up to this particular moment, and I could tell he was getting restless as the Litany of Saints was being sung. Monsignor Fran Cilia, the presider at our Mass, then motioned that it was time to hold him over the baptismal font. “I baptize you in the name of the Father...and of the Son...and of the Holy Spirit, Amen!” As soon as everyone said “amen,” Caelio quietly and peacefully fell asleep. What a moment of grace and a reflection of the true peace that can only be found as a child of God!

As Caelio’s parents, Ryan and I have the blessing and privilege to raise him up in the Faith. And this means providing him every opportunity to know God, love God, and serve God. Any time I see young families at Mass, I can’t help but smile. I now have a small glimpse into how stressful it can be to bring small children to Mass and how we can become wrapped up in the thought that others may stare when they babble during the homily.

What if we as a community learned to offer it all up as joyful noise and to see these little ones through God’s eyes? What if we, as a community, could support our young families by seeing the courage it takes for them to bring their little ones to the Lord each Sunday? These little ones are as much a part of the Church as we adults are. *Let the children come to Him.*

Faith Formation

D A T E S T O R E M E M B E R

JOY (& first year preparation for children's sacraments)

Mar 19 session

First Communion Second Year Preparation

Feb 8 session

Adult Confirmation

(Sessions 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM in the parish office)

Jan 18 session

Feb 15 session

OCIA (Adults)

(Sessions begin at the 10 AM Mass)

Jan 18 session

Jan 25 session

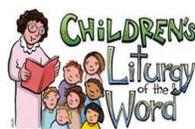
OCIC (Children)

(Sessions begin at the 10 AM Mass)

Feb 15 session

Children's Liturgy of the Word

(8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, & 12:00 PM Masses)



Jan 25 All children welcome!



Our parish now has a yearly subscription to **FORMED™: The Catholic Faith On Demand!**

FORMED™ guides & supports you along your spiritual journey. Access daily reflections, award-winning movies, e-books, and family-friendly kids' programming from over 100 content providers.

Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi can now access the FORMED™ App free.

Instructions on signing up can be found at <https://sfoasj.com/formed>

Youth Ministry

UPDATES

E.C.H.O. (Encouraging Christ & Helping Others)

Next session — Friday, January 23 at 6pm

ECHO Retreat Registration Open!

Deadline to Register = Sunday, March 1st

2026 ECHO JR. HIGH RETREAT

Illuminate

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!!

OPEN TO ALL MIDDLE SCHOOLERS 6TH-8TH GRADE

MARCH 13TH-15TH 2026

CAMP MAYMAC FELTON, CA

www.sfoasjyouth.com

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR CONCERNS AT ALL, PLEASE REACH OUT TO THERESE.NGUYEN@DSJ.ORG OR SFOAECHOCOORDINATOR@GMAIL.COM

SFOA YOUTH MINISTRY 25-26

I.G.N.I.T.E. (In God Now I Trust Everything)

Next session — Thursday, January 22 at 6pm

— Save the Date —

Diocesan Youth Retreat June 8-12, 2026

Upcoming Confirmation Sessions:

1st Years = Thursday, February 12 at 6:30pm

2nd Years = Thursday, February 5 at 6:30pm

NORTH STAR YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

We'll be back soon with events!

In the meantime, join us for Youth/Young Adult Mass Sundays at 6PM!

WEEKLY OFFERTORY TOTALS

COLLECTION TOTALS

Week of Dec 22-28, 2025

Masses	\$	13,391.00
Online	\$	9,443.00
Grand Total	\$	22,834.00

(2nd Collection)

St. Francis Fund \$ **3,167.00**

(Simbang Gabi)

Parish Collection	\$	1,478.00
Star of Mercy/Hope	\$	3,677.00

Christmas Eve & Day 2025

Masses	\$	34,512.00
Online*	\$	875.00
<i>*This does not include other online Christmas Collections received throughout the month.</i>		
Mail	\$	1,645.00
Grand Total	\$	37,032.00

Week of Dec 29, 2025 - Jan 4, 2026

Masses	\$	11,963.00
Online	\$	7,755.00
Grand Total	\$	19,718.00

(2nd Collection)

Worship Space Expansion \$ **6,485.00**

(Solemnity of Mary)

Masses	\$	6,340.00
Online	\$	145.00
Grand Total	\$	6,485.00

We are deeply grateful for your faithful stewardship and generosity.

Support Our Parish Bulletin

St. Francis of Assisi Parish is blessed to receive our weekly bulletin at no cost, thanks to the generosity of Dee Printing in Ohio and the advertisers who help cover printing expenses.

To keep our bulletin free, we are seeking new advertisers. If you or a local business owner would like to support our parish in this way, please contact joseph@deepprinting.com or call **800-292-9020**.

Thank you for helping sustain this blessing for our parish family!

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, January 19	Jeffrey Mariano+
	Phil & Edna Esguerra (<i>Anniversary</i>)
	Eliazer Visenio+
Tuesday, January 20	Michael Visenio (<i>Birthdays</i>)
Wednesday, January 21	All Souls Living & Deceased
Thursday, January 22	Fr. Vincent Pineda (<i>Birthdays</i>)
Friday, January 23	Msgr. Eugene O'Donnell (<i>Birthdays</i>)
	Vincente Nguyen Cong Binh+
Saturday, January 24	Anna Ngam+
	Philip Alexander Esguerra (<i>Birthdays</i>)
Saturday/Sunday, January 25	
4PM	Teodoro Mendoza+
	Bibiana Mendoza+ (<i>Death Anniversary</i>)
5:30PM	Leo Hồ Quý Chương+
	Philipe Nguyen Anh Tho+
8AM Chapel	Vanessa Lai (<i>Birthdays</i>)
	All Souls in Purgatory+
	Zony Camerino, Jr.+
8:15AM Villages	All Souls Living & Deceased+
10AM Chapel	Celerino Balagtas+
	Jaime Caricungan+ (<i>Death Anniversary</i>)
	John Bui+
	All Souls in Purgatory+
12PM Chapel	Anselmo B Legaspi+
	Teodoro Mendoza+
	Bibiana Mendoza+ (<i>Death Anniversary</i>)
	Herminia Ayala+
2PM Chapel (Spanish)	All Souls Living & Deceased+
4PM Chapel (Viet)	All Souls Living & Deceased+
6PM Chapel	All Souls Living & Deceased+

Mass Intentions for 2026 are now open!

Please plan your Mass Intentions in advance if possible (Birthdays, Anniversaries, Death Anniversaries).

Our Mass Intention calendar is open through ***December 31, 2026***

PRAYER GROUP GATHERINGS

- ♦ **Daily Rosary and Prayer (Chapel)**
8:00AM
- ♦ **Adoration (Chapel)**
First Friday of the Month
9:30AM-5:00PM
- ♦ **Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Chapel)**
Wednesdays
6:30PM Rosary & Novena
7:00PM Mass
- ♦ **Spanish Community Prayer & Rosary (Chapel; Tabernacle)**
Wednesdays at 4:30PM
- ♦ **Prayer Shawl Ministry (Fireside)**
Thursdays at 3:00-5:00PM
- ♦ **Praise and Thanksgiving Ministry (Chapel; Tabernacle)**
Thursdays at 5:30PM

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



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.*

We Also Pray For...

- ◆ Those battling cancer — may God grant them endurance, healing, and compassionate hands to care for them.
- ◆ Those who have no one to pray for them — we lift them up with love, trusting that God knows each of their names and needs.
- ◆ May our parish community hold all these intentions close, as we continue to pray with faith, compassion, and hope in God's unfailing love.

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

TODAY'S READINGS

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reading I:

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

Reading II:

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Gospel:

John 1:29-34

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reading I:

Isaiah 8:23-9:3

Reading II:

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

Gospel:

Matthew 4:12-23

**PARDON OUR
PROGRESS
EXCITING CHANGES
IN THE WORKS**

Dear St. Francis of Assisi Memorial Garden Families, We kindly ask that you refrain from bringing new flowers or plants until the completion of the ongoing construction. This will help us maintain safety and preserve the dignity of the space throughout the improvements. *Thank you for your understanding, cooperation, and continued care for our Memorial Garden.* Memorial Garden Management



A Mental Health Ministry Reflection Finding Light in the Dark Season

Winter months can be difficult for many who experience Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) — a type of depression triggered by shorter days and reduced sunlight. As someone who has walked through depression myself and spent time in a psychiatric hospital in Los Gatos, I understand how difficult and lonely this journey can feel.

Before that experience, I didn't fully understand mental health or how constant stress and burnout could quietly drain me. I had been running on survival mode — my "fight or flight" response. When my nervous system could no longer cope, everything collapsed. Life suddenly became overwhelming, even hopeless. It was painful not only for me but also for my family, who struggled to understand what I was going through. Their frustration and confusion made things harder instead of better.

But in the middle of that darkness, God sent light through the kindness of others — friends in Christ who took time off work, opened their homes, and cared for me with patience and love. Their compassion reminded me that even when everything seems lost, we are never truly alone.

Looking back now, I see that this painful season was not the end, but the beginning of transformation. My experience deepened my compassion and helped me see the quiet suffering that so many carry. It also strengthened my conviction that Jesus is not only our Savior, but also our great Healer — present in every moment of pain, guiding us gently toward renewal. If you are struggling this season, or any season, please remember — this is only a phase, not forever. Like winter giving way to spring, light will return. Hold on to faith, reach out for help, and trust that God is gently transforming you to live more fully and more whole than before.



If you or someone you love are experiencing thoughts of suicide or self-harm, call 9-8-8. If you would like more information about Mental Health Ministry at St. Francis of Assisi Church, email barbara.zahner@sfoasmhm.com.

If you would like someone to talk with about local mental health resources, call NAMI Help Line: 408.453.0400 x1. The Help Line is open M-F, from 10 am-6 pm. If after hours, leave a message and someone will get back to you.

You can also walk into the NAMI office M-F, from 10 am-2 pm. The NAMI address is 1150 S. Bascom Ave. Suite 24 (Corner of Bascom and Downing Avenues). Bus Service-Route 61; Light Rail: Bascom.

THE IMPACT OF OUR CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE



Your generous donations to our Christmas Giving Trees project were delivered to our partners at Our Lady of Refuge and Our Lady of Guadalupe, ensuring that countless children experienced the magic and joy of the holiday season on Christmas Day.

The response this year was truly overwhelming,

with **over 1300 gifts collected!**

We are incredibly grateful for your kindness and support.



