

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

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." - Matthew 5:3

My Dear St. Francis of Assisi Family,

Jesus climbs a mountain, sits down, and begins teaching with words that turn everything upside down. The Beatitudes sound like a beautiful poem, but they're actually a revolution wrapped in blessing language. Our world has a very clear list of who's blessed: the rich, the powerful, the beautiful, the successful, the people who have it all together. Jesus looks at that list and says, "Actually, you've got it backwards." Blessed are the poor in spirit, he tells us. These aren't necessarily people without money, but people who know they don't have it all together. They're the ones who've stopped pretending, who recognize they desperately need God. Think of the parent lying awake at night admitting, "I don't know how to help my struggling teenager. I need God's wisdom." That's poverty of spirit, and Jesus calls it blessed. Blessed are those who mourn – not just people who are sad, but people whose hearts break over sin and injustice in the world. It's weeping when you see homeless people downtown instead of walking past them numb. It's letting yourself feel the pain of a broken world instead of building walls around your heart.

The meek inherit the earth, Jesus says, and we misunderstand this completely. Meekness isn't weakness. It's strength under control. It's having the power to retaliate but choosing forgiveness instead. It's the person who could crush someone with words but chooses gentleness. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness aren't just nice people who wish things were better. They're people who lie awake bothered by inequality, by injustice, by the gap between how things are and how they should be – and then they actually do something about it. The merciful will receive mercy, Jesus promises, and this should stop us in our tracks. It's giving grace to someone who absolutely doesn't deserve it, just like God does for us every single day. The pure in heart will see God – these are people whose motivations are unmixed, who want God more than they want to look good to others. Peacemakers will be called children of God. Not peacekeepers who avoid conflict at all costs, but peacemakers who build bridges instead of walls, who reconcile instead of taking sides, who step into tension and create peace. And the persecuted for righteousness' sake possess the kingdom – those who face real consequences because they did the right thing.

Here's what's radical about all this: Jesus isn't giving us a to-do list to earn God's love. He's describing what people look like when God transforms them. He's painting a picture of kingdom life and saying these people – the ones the world overlooks or tramples – are actually the blessed ones. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them, present tense. They will be comforted. They'll inherit the earth. They'll be satisfied. They'll receive mercy. They'll see God. They'll be called children of God. This is the beautiful reversal at the heart of the Gospel. So this week, let the Beatitudes be a mirror. Which one speaks to where you are right now? Do you recognize your need for God, or are you running on self-sufficiency? What injustice breaks your heart enough to actually do something? Are you more concerned with being right or making peace? When someone wrongs you, is your first instinct revenge or mercy? These aren't rhetorical questions. They're invitations to examine your heart and ask God to grow these qualities in you, because this is what transformation looks like.

Blessings, *Fr. Vincent*



☞ OFFICE HOURS

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UPCOMING PRESIDER SCHEDULE AND FEATURE ARTICLE

February 7 - 8, 2026,
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Presiders Subject to Change)

SATURDAY VIGIL

4:00PM *Msgr. Michael Mitchell*
5:30PM (Vietnamese) *Fr. Lieu Vu*

SUNDAY

8:00 AM *Fr. Phong Nguyen*
8:15AM (Villages) *Fr. Eddie Obero*
10:00AM *Fr. Vincent Pineda*
12:00PM *Fr. Eddie Obero*
2:00PM (Spanish) TBD
4:00PM (Vietnamese) *Fr. Phong Nguyen*
6:00PM *Fr. Eddie Obero*



MY PILGRIMAGE TO VIETNAM

At the start of this year, I was given the opportunity to spend a couple of weeks in Vietnam learning about Vietnamese Catholicism, the history of the Vietnamese martyrs, liturgy, and simply just the culture and traditions. Through my discernment, I reflected deeper on what this opportunity could do for me and my ministry. All of these years as the music director at SFOA, I wanted everyone I served to be seen. I hoped to understand different cultures and learn about the ways their traditions and music can serve our parishioners.

Leslie Campos

During the pilgrimage, I visited various cities: Saigon, Da Nang, Hoi An, Hue, Phat Diem, and Hanoi. We toured many beautiful Catholic churches, Buddhist temples, and even a Cao Dai temple. I got to witness how different religions worship, and although there was a language barrier, it didn't take away from seeing how devout each religious community is. I had the honor of meeting Fr. Nguyen Duy and Phanxico, two composers I've only heard about, but I recognized a few of their songs. It was a joy to be in the presence of Vietnamese music and liturgy legends. A few of us also attended a Vietnamese Taizé prayer service led by young adult ministers and hung out with them afterwards as they shared their joy of singing in the choir. Sometimes they attend English Masses, but rarely, so it was a great time singing with them and hearing their stories. They shared how serving the church was their passion, despite their professional day jobs.

We interacted with a lot of priests and sisters, visited orphanages and chapels, and got to see the incredible and inspiring work that the sisters do for children with special needs. All of the locals were so kind and hospitable, the food was amazing, of course, and overall, I was incredibly blessed each day to see more and more of the beauty of Vietnamese culture and Catholicism.

Through all of these experiences, I kept you all at the back of my mind, thinking — how can this pilgrimage make me a better minister to the Vietnamese people I serve? How can our parish choirs and musicians truly feel that I see them and care about their important contributions to this ministry? This trip gave me a deeper understanding and appreciation for Vietnamese culture, Catholicism and liturgy. I learned about the history of the 'chant style' and was gifted a bilingual hymnal that is only available in Vietnam. It includes Mass responses in Vietnamese and popular English hymns translated into Vietnamese, which will help me learn the language more and use it for weddings and funerals, and other multilingual liturgies. I also learned that many traditions and practices are passed down through so many generations and Thiếu Nhi is such an important movement for Catholic youth. (We visited a church that had Thiếu Nhi groups play outside)

To our Vietnamese music ministers, I want you all to know how much I appreciate your passion & love for service. I admire the hard work and commitment all of your choirs put into every Mass, and the preparation it takes to make each liturgy special and moving. I love how Vietnamese choirs have a larger number of singers which gives the liturgy such vibrancy. Even in Vietnam we heard this vibrancy at work because Vietnamese folks are strong singers and know how to project their voices. Moving forward, I pray that I'm able to integrate more Vietnamese culture, and other cultures into our liturgies to celebrate how special it is to be a part of a diverse parish like ours. I also want to involve myself more in your ethnic traditions like Tet, and learn how to sing Vietnamese songs (pronouncing everything correctly).

Thank you for all the years you have served with us, and the years to come.

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 & Mar 8 session

Adult Confirmation

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

Feb 15 session

Mar 15 session

OCIA (Adults)

(Sessions begin at the 10 AM Mass)

Feb 1 session

Feb 8 session

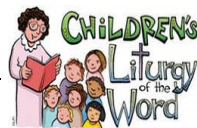
OCIC (Children)

(Sessions begin at the 10 AM Mass)

Feb 15 Rite of Sending & session

Children's Liturgy of the Word

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



Feb 15 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, February 6 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, February 26 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 January 12 - 18, 2026

Masses	\$	11,587.31
Online	\$	4,443.00
Mail	\$	2,631.00
OLPH	\$	169.00
Grand Total	\$	18,830.31

(2nd Collection)

Ethnic Minorities

In South America \$ **4,159.00**

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, February 2	Efrenny Suriaga+
Juanita Pagattatan+	Bernadette Raphael+
Philominal Thomas+ (9th Death Anniversary)	Rene Aguero+ (40th Day)
Tuesday, February 3	William Ereno+
Diosdado Dado Banatao+	All Souls in Purgatory+
Thelma Mendez (Birthday)	
Wednesday, February 4	Luciano "Jhun" Castro+
Sabina & Teodoro Saballo+	Maria Magdalena Le Thi Thieu+
A. Anthony Joseph+ (1st Death Anniversary)	
Thursday, February 5	Fernando Guevara+
Lourdes Sanchez (Birthday)	Nelson Saldana+
Friday, February 6	Anna Be Le+
Fernando Guevarra+	Vincente Nguyen Cong Binh+
Saturday, February 7	Dinh/Mai Family Descendants+
Jaime Renee Agustin (Special Intention)	Robert Sonny Mendinueto+
Saturday/Sunday, February 8	
4PM	Alexander Guiang+
Lordes Lino+ & De Silva Brothers+	
5:30PM	Leo Hồ Quý Chương+
Phero Nguyen Tuyet+	
8AM Chapel	Emil (Birthday)
8:15AM Villages	All Souls Living & Deceased+
10AM Chapel	John Bui+
Gioakim Dinh Van Hoc+	Timothy Canlas+
12PM Chapel	Jose Costa+
Milagros Pedroza Roble+	Maria Cecilia Gracioso+
2PM Chapel (Spanish)	Raul Gallegos+
Alvaro Gallegos Romero (Special Intention)	Raul Gallegos Batiz (Special Intention)
4PM Chapel (Viet)	All Souls Living & Deceased+
6PM Chapel	All Souls Living & Deceased+

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reading I:

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

Reading II:

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Gospel:

Matthew 5:1-12a

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reading I:

Isaiah 58:7-10

Reading II:

1 Corinthians 2:11-5

Gospel:

Matthew 5:13-16

Pope Leo XIV has declared this year, 2026, as a "special year for St. Francis" as we celebrate the 800th Death Anniversary of Patron Saint!

To celebrate, our parish will have
some major events throughout this year
that embody core Franciscan values. Stay tuned!

Learn more about this & how to obtain a plenary indulgence at
<https://ofm.org/en/pope-leo-xiv-proclaims-franciscan-jubilee-year-for-the.html>

Conditions for receiving the Indulgence

(for oneself or for the deceased)

- ✚ **Sacramental confession** to be in God's grace
(in the eight days before or after)
- ✚ Participation in Mass and **Eucharistic Communion**
- ✚ **To visit** in the form of a pilgrimage **any Franciscan conventual church or place of worship dedicated to St. Francis anywhere in the world**, where one renews one's profession of faith, through the recitation of the **Creed**, to reaffirm one's Christian identity;
- ✚ The recitation of the **Lord's Prayer**, to reaffirm the dignity of children of God, received in Baptism;
- ✚ To pray for the intentions of the **Holy Father**, to reaffirm belonging to the Church, whose foundation and visible centre of unity is the Roman Pontiff;

**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**

THE P.O.T.T.E.R & THE C.L.A.Y.



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH
CONFIRMATION RETREAT 2026

Our parish's Confirmation candidates are on retreat this weekend!

Please continue to keep them in your prayers as they journey towards the sacrament of Confirmation. In a special way, keep our Confirmation Leadership team in your prayers as they lead the various retreat activities and prayer experiences.



Parish Registration

Why Registering Matters

Registering at your Catholic parish is more than just paperwork— it's a sign of belonging.

It allows the Church to support you in your spiritual journey, helps with Sacrament preparation, and ensures you are counted as a valued member of our faith community.

Join us not just in the pews, but as part of the family!

Register today!

¿Por qué es importante registrarse?

Registrarse en su parroquia católica es más que llenar un formulario: es una señal de pertenencia.

Le permite a la Iglesia acompañarlo en su camino espiritual, facilita la preparación para los Sacramentos, y asegura que usted sea contado como un miembro valioso de nuestra comunidad de fe.

Únase a nosotros no solo en las bancas, sino como parte de la familia.

¡Regístrese hoy!

Tại sao việc ghi danh lại quan trọng?

Ghi danh tại giáo xứ Công Giáo của bạn không chỉ là thủ tục hành chính— mà còn là dấu hiệu của sự thuộc về.

Việc này giúp Giáo Hội đồng hành với bạn trong hành trình đức tin, hỗ trợ chuẩn bị các Bí Tích, và ghi nhận bạn là một thành viên quý giá của cộng đoàn đức tin.

Xin đừng chỉ hiện diện trong nhà thờ—hãy trở thành một phần của gia đình.

Ghi danh hôm nay nhé!