

"The water I shall give will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life." - John 4:14

Today we meet a woman at a well at noon, the hottest part of the day when nobody else would be there. That detail matters. She's avoiding other people, probably because they avoid her. Jesus is about to cross every social boundary to reach her. He's tired and thirsty, and he does something shocking: he asks this Samaritan woman for a drink. Three major boundaries crossed in one sentence. Jews don't talk to Samaritans – ethnic tension. Men don't speak to women alone in public – social impropriety. Religious people don't associate with those with questionable reputations – moral superiority. But Jesus doesn't care about those boundaries. He sees a person who needs what he offers.

The woman is surprised. "How can you ask me for a drink?" Jesus responds, "If you knew who was asking, you'd be asking me for living water." The woman thinks Jesus is talking about regular water. We do this too. We think Jesus is offering to make our current lives a little better when he's actually offering to transform our entire existence. She's coming to this well every day, carrying heavy water jars, alone. It's exhausting. It's lonely. Jesus is saying, "What if you never had to keep coming back here? What if I could give you something that satisfies from the inside out?"

Think about your own wells, the things you keep going back to looking for satisfaction. Another purchase that'll finally make you happy. Another relationship that'll complete you. Another accomplishment that'll prove you're worthy. Another drink, scroll, binge, distraction to fill the emptiness. You keep coming back because they never truly satisfy. Jesus offers something different, living water that becomes "a spring welling up to eternal life." Not something you have to keep fetching, but something that flows from within.

Then Jesus shifts the conversation. "Go call your husband." She says, "I don't have a husband." Jesus responds, "You're right. You've had five husbands, and the man you're with now isn't your husband." Ouch. Jesus knows everything. But notice, he doesn't shame her. He doesn't lecture. He simply sees her, really sees her, and that's both terrifying and liberating. Someone knows the whole truth about her and is still talking to her, still offering her life. The woman tries to change the subject to theology – we do this too when things get uncomfortable. But Jesus brings it back to what matters. "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth." Here's what Jesus is saying: God doesn't care about which mountain you worship on or what religious tradition you follow. God cares about your heart. Are you being real? Are you letting the Spirit work?

When the woman mentions the coming Messiah, Jesus makes an astounding claim: "I am he, the one speaking with you." Look at what happens next. The woman leaves her water jar, the thing she came for, and runs to tell everyone. "Come see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could he be the Messiah?" She's not ashamed anymore. She's not hiding anymore. An encounter with Jesus has transformed her from someone avoiding people at noon to someone inviting the whole town to meet him. And here's the beautiful part: many Samaritans from that town began to believe because of her testimony. The outcast becomes the evangelist.

So this week, ask yourself what your well is. What do you keep going back to looking for satisfaction that never truly fills you? Can you be honest with Jesus? He already knows everything. What would it mean to stop pretending and get real with him? What water jar do you need to leave behind? And who needs to hear your story? Your transformation, however imperfect and ongoing, could be exactly what someone else needs to hear. The woman came looking for water and found the source of living water. She came alone and ashamed and left running to tell others. She came thinking about her immediate needs and left thinking about eternal life. What if you let Jesus meet you at your well today?

Lenten Blessings,

Fr. Vincent



☞ OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, **9:00 AM — 4:00 PM**
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UPCOMING PRESIDER SCHEDULE & FEATURED ARTICLE

March 14 - 15, 2026,
Fourth Sunday of Lent
(Presiders Subject to Change)

SATURDAY VIGIL

4:00PM

Msgr. Michael Mitchell

5:30PM (Vietnamese)

Fr. Phong Nguyen

SUNDAY

8:00 AM

Fr. Vincent Pineda w/ Deacon Sunny

8:15AM (Villages)

Fr. Eddie Obero w/ Deacon Joe

10:00AM

Fr. Vincent Pineda w/ Deacon Joe

12:00PM

Fr. Eddie Obero w/ Deacon Andrzej

2:00PM (Spanish)

TBD

4:00PM (Vietnamese)

Fr. Phong Nguyen

6:00PM

Fr. Francis Kalaw w/ Deacon Sunny

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL: A REFLECTION ON BEARING WITNESS

“The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, ‘Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Messiah?’”



Deacon Sunny

The story of the Woman at the Well speaks powerfully to key aspects of Christian life, particularly evangelization, witness, and the sharing of faith through both words and actions. It reminds us that faith is often strengthened through personal encounter and compassionate accompaniment.

During a recent visit to Nigeria for Christmas, I met a man at church who shared his struggles and a growing uncertainty about his faith. Although he was not Catholic, he expressed a deep desire to understand the meaning of his suffering and to reconnect with God. His life’s challenges had weakened his faith, leaving him searching for hope.

I recognized this as an opportunity to offer encouragement and bear witness to God’s enduring love. By sharing my own experiences of faith and struggle, I sought to reassure him that he was not alone. Drawing on Scripture and ongoing pastoral support, I met with him several times to listen, encourage, and affirm God’s unconditional love. Today, he has chosen to begin the process of converting to the Catholic faith.

Personal testimony—sharing our lived relationship with Christ—has a unique ability to touch hearts. Authentic witness, grounded in belief and action, often speaks more powerfully than words alone.

The Woman at the Well also invites us to reflect on our own spiritual thirst and our search for true fulfillment. It challenges us to examine how we view those considered “outsiders,” including immigrants or individuals from different social or cultural backgrounds. The Samaritan woman’s encounter with Jesus reminds us that God’s love knows no boundaries and that Christ seeks a personal relationship with each of us. As we enter the season of Lent, we are invited to draw anew from the living water that is Jesus Christ and to share the Good News through our words, actions, and lives.

Franciscan Jubilee Webpage & Pilgrim Certificate Order Form

Visit www.sfoasj.com/jubilee-year-of-st-francis for information on obtaining a plenary indulgence, for our Pilgrim Certificate Order Form and for other Jubilee volunteer opportunities!

More will be posted soon regarding upcoming Jubilee Events, so stay tuned!

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

Mar 8 session

Mar 21 First Reconciliation
(10:00-11:00 AM in the Chapel)

Adult Confirmation

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

Mar 15 session

Apr 19 session

OCIA (Adults)

(Sessions begin at the 10 AM Mass)

Mar 8 First Scrutiny & session
(at the 10 AM Mass for the baptized)

Mar 15 Second Scrutiny & session
(at the 10 AM Mass for the baptized)

OCIC (Children)

(Sessions begin at the 10 AM Mass)

Mar 8 First Scrutiny & session
(at the 10 AM Mass for the baptized)

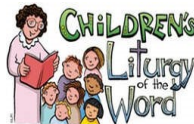
Mar 15 Second Scrutiny & session
(at the 10 AM Mass for the baptized)

Children's Liturgy of the Word

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

Mar 22 All children welcome!

Apr 19



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>



E.C.H.O. (Encouraging Christ & Helping Others)
Next session — Friday, March 13 at 6pm

ECHO Retreat Registration has closed!
If you would still like to register your junior high youth for retreat, please contact Therese Bao at therese.bao@dsj.org

I.G.N.I.T.E. (In God Now I Trust Everything)
Next session — Thursday, March 19 at 6pm
— Save the Date —

Diocesan Youth Retreat June 8-12, 2026

Retreat Registration Open Now!

Visit <https://www.dsj.org/evangelization/yya/youth/dyr/>

YOUTH CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Upcoming Confirmation Sessions:

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

2nd Years = Thursday, April 16 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!

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Our annual Easter Egg hunt is coming up!

Youth volunteers are needed for to help with the following roles:

- ✦ filling Easter Eggs (*at the parish office on week-day afternoons/evenings*)
- ✦ hiding Easter Eggs on Easter Sunday
- ✦ supervising prize stations on Easter Sunday
- ✦ traffic-control/supervising outdoor boundary on Easter Sunday

For more information, contact **Therese Bao** (therese.bao@dsj.org)

WEEKLY OFFERTORY TOTALS

COLLECTION TOTALS

Week of February 16 - 22, 2026

Masses	\$	15,637.00
Online	\$	4,338.00
Mail	\$	495.00
Grand Total	\$	20,470.00

Ash Wednesday \$ **11,948.00**

Easter Flowers \$ **717.00**

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, March 9	Victor Samson+
	Trang Nguyen (Birthday)
	Miguel Angel Aguayo (Special Intention)
Tuesday, March 10	Oscar Estrada+
	Leslie Legacion (Birthday)
	Antonio Doan Tran (Birthday)
	Ava Esguerra (Birthday)
Wednesday, March 11	Peter Phan Le (Birthday)
	Miguel Angel Aguayo (Special Intention)
OLPH	All Souls Living & Deceased+
Thursday, March 12	Teresita Rule Ubaldo+
	Rolando A Santiago+
	Shirley Pangilinan (Health)
	Miguel Angel Aguayo (Special Intention)
Friday, March 13	Cat Cecillo+
	Anna Theralynne & Anna Therabelle Tran (Birthday)
	Victor Franco Borlaza+
	Vincente Nguyen Cong Binh+
Saturday, March 14	Cesaria Villasista+
	Francis Xavier Nguyen Vu Tu-Thuc+
	Holy Death of Dinh/Mai Family Descendants+
Saturday/Sunday, March 15	
4PM	Owen Juinio+
	Mercy Parayno (Health/Healing)
5:30PM	Leo Hồ Quý Chương+
8AM Chapel	Phyllis Porter+
	Peter Tran Quoc Tuan+
	Maria Dinh Thi Loc+
8:15AM Villages	All Souls+
10AM Chapel	Fernando Guevarra+
	Antonia & Angel Reyes+
	Gioakim Dinh Van Hoc+
	Phan Nguyen+
12PM Chapel	Leandra Vallejos+
	Eladio Misterio+
	All Priests & Religious Life (Special Intention)
2PM Chapel (Spanish)	All Souls+
4PM Chapel (Viet)	All Souls+
6PM Chapel	Peter & Lisa Nguyen+
	Tania Rowena Makalinao+
	Lang & Jackie Luu+

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Reading I:

Exodus 17:3-7

Reading II:

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Gospel:

John 4:5-42

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Reading I:

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Reading II:

Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel:

John 9:1-41

Honoring Our Sacred Space: A Call to Stewardship

As a faith community, our church is more than just a building; it is a sacred space where we gather to encounter Christ in the Word and the Eucharist. Catholic stewardship calls us to be grateful guardians of the gifts God has entrusted to us, including our beautiful sanctuary.



To ensure our home remains a welcoming and orderly place of prayer for everyone, we kindly ask for your assistance with the following after each Mass:

- **Reset Our Space:** If you moved your chair to accommodate a family member, stroller, or mobility aid, please return it to its original position.
 - Maintaining uniform rows ensures clear pathways and safety for the next liturgy.
- **Leave No Trace:** Please take a moment to check your area for any personal items, bulletins, or tissues left behind.

By taking these small actions, you exercise the virtue of charity toward our parish staff and the volunteers who prepare the church for the next celebration.

**Thank you for your commitment
to the beauty and reverence of our parish home!**

~ Volunteers Needed ~

Become a Docent for St. Francis of Assisi Parish!

As we prepare to welcome pilgrims to our parish, **we are looking for volunteer docents who will guide and share facts about our parish to those who journey to our holy place.**

During your training as a parish docent, you will learn about the rich history of our parish, which include information on its vineyard, the statue of St. Francis embracing the Leper, the statue of the older Mother Mary who sits with open arms in the church, and the Memorial Garden where many of our parish families now rest.

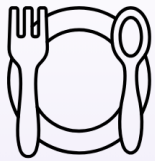
- ✦ Your time commitment will be approximately one to two hours in the morning.
- ✦ Your assigned day will either be on the First Friday of each month after morning Mass or on a Saturday morning after Mass.

If the possibility of becoming a Docent (and meeting new people) at our parish sounds interesting to you, please contact **Lerma Simpson** at lerma.simpson@dsj.org or at (408) 223-1770 ext. 316.

**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**



Lenten Fridays

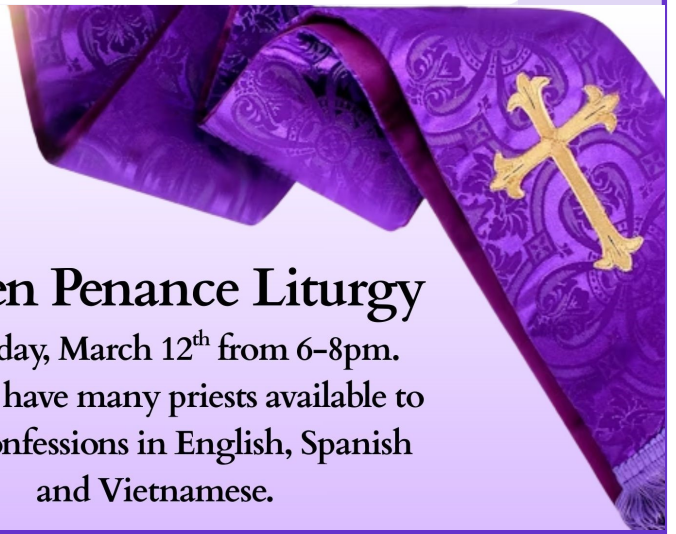


SOUP SUPPER & STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Our annual Lenten Friday Soup Suppers and Stations of the Cross begin February 20th until March 27th. Join us at 6PM in the Hall for a meatless soup dinner provided by our parish ministries, followed by Stations of the Cross at 7PM in the Chapel.

All are welcome to dine and pray with us during this season of Lent.

 **CRS RICE BOWL**



Lenten Penance Liturgy

Thursday, March 12th from 6-8pm.

We will have many priests available to hear confessions in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

