

"We Are Not Just Beginning — We Are Already Bearing Fruit"
 A Pastoral Letter on Our Parish's Living Response to the Diocesan Pastoral Plan
 & Our Special Calling During the Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi

My Dear St. Francis of Assisi Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

It is with a heart full of gratitude, joy, and deep pastoral pride that I write to you today — not to announce something new that we must begin, but to celebrate something beautiful that we have already been living. This letter is, above all, a letter of thanksgiving: thanksgiving to God, who has been quietly and powerfully at work in our midst, & thanksgiving to each of you, whose faithful commitment to this parish has made our community a living witness to the Gospel.

I. The Pastoral Plan: A Vision We Already Inhabit

As you may know, our Diocese of San José, under the inspired leadership of Bishop Oscar Cantú, unveiled its 2023 Pastoral Plan, "Renewed in Christ, Together in Mission." Born from the fruits of the Diocesan Synod — a process that engaged more than 8,000 faithful across Santa Clara County — the plan charts a bold course for the spiritual renewal of our diocese through six strategic priorities: **Worship, Outreach, Lifelong Faith Formation, Family Ministry, Youth and Young Adults, and Structural Renewal.**

When I first studied this plan carefully — prayerfully — I found myself moved, not by something foreign, but by something deeply familiar. Page after page, priority after priority, **I saw us.** I saw our parish. I saw your faces. I saw the programs, the ministries, the sacrifices, and the love that you have been pouring into this community — in many cases, for years and even decades.

My brothers and sisters, let me say this clearly and with great joy:

We are not behind. We are not catching up. We are already living the Pastoral Plan.

Our vibrant and diverse parish community has not been waiting for a diocesan roadmap to begin the work of spiritual renewal. By God's grace, we have been walking this road together for a long time. The Pastoral Plan does not call us to start something new — it gives us the language, the affirmation, and the diocesan unity to name what the Holy Spirit has already been doing among us.

This is not a moment for complacency.

It is a moment for **profound gratitude and renewed commitment.**

(to be continued...part II will appear in the next edition of the bulletin)

With gratitude & joy,

Fr. Vincent
 Pax et Bonum



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UPCOMING PRESIDER SCHEDULE & FEATURED ARTICLE

March 28 - 29, 2026

Palm Sunday

(Presiders Subject to Change)

SATURDAY VIGIL

4:00PM

Fr. Vincent Pineda

5:30PM (Vietnamese)

Fr. Phong Nguyen

SUNDAY

8:00 AM

Fr. Eddie w/ Deacon Andrzej

8:15AM (Villages)

Msgr. Michael Mitchell

10:00AM

Fr. Vincent Pineda w/ Deacon Joe

12:00PM

Fr. Eddie Obero w/ Deacon Sunny

2:00PM (Spanish)

Fr. Randy Valenton

4:00PM (Vietnamese)

Fr. Phong Nguyen

6:00PM

Fr. Vincent Pineda

STEWARDSHIP AS PARTICIPATION | BELONGING TO THE BODY OF CHRIST



Victor Espinoza

Stewardship is not lived in isolation, but in relationship with others. As baptized members of the Body of Christ, each of us is called to **active participation** in the life of the Church. God does not ask us all to serve in the same way, but He invites every person to contribute something meaningful. Each gift, no matter how small it may seem, is essential to the life of the parish.

Participation can take many forms—serving in ministries, supporting parish events, praying for one another, or offering a welcoming presence. When we give our **time**, we strengthen the bonds of community and demonstrate our commitment to Christ.

By sharing our **talents**, we help ministries flourish and allow others to experience God's love through our service. Through our **treasure**, we ensure that the Church can continue its mission of worship, formation, and outreach.

As we journey through Easter and the season of renewal, we are reminded that stewardship is about **belonging**. We are not spectators in our faith—we are disciples called to be fully engaged. Participation deepens our relationship with Christ and one another. It strengthens our parish and reminds us that we are part of something greater than ourselves.

When we actively participate, the parish becomes a living witness of faith. Stewardship expressed through participation builds unity, encourages growth, and nurtures a vibrant community of believers. In giving ourselves fully, we encounter Christ in service and fellowship.

Every gift matters. Every act of participation helps build the Body of Christ.

TRIDUUM SCHEDULE



Holy Thursday, April 2nd

Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:00pm

followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11pm

Good Friday, April 3rd

9am Outdoor Stations of the Cross led by Parish Staff

12pm, 2pm (Villages), 3pm, 5pm (Vietnamese), 7pm (English)

Easter Vigil, in the Holy Night of Easter, April 4th

8:00pm

HOLY WEEK/EASTER REMINDERS

- The Taizé Prayer Service is Wednesday, April 1st at 7pm.
- There is no Daily Mass scheduled on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.
- The Outdoor Stations of the Cross is on Good Friday at 9am.
- The Parish Office will be closed from April 3-6th.

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)

April 16 session

First Communion Second Year Preparation

May 3 session

Adult Confirmation

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

Apr 19 session

OCIA (Adults)

(Sessions begin at the 10 AM Mass)

Mar 22 Third Scrutiny & session

(at the 10 AM Mass for the baptized)

Apr 4 Easter Vigil

(rehearsal at 9:30AM, call time in evening is 7PM)

OCIA (Children)

(Sessions begin at the 10 AM Mass)

Mar 22 Third Scrutiny & session

(at the 10 AM Mass for the baptized)

Apr 4 Easter Vigil

(rehearsal at 9:30AM, call time in evening is 7PM)

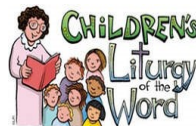
Children's Liturgy of the Word

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

Apr 19 All children welcome!

May 17

May 31



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, April 17 at 6pm

I.G.N.I.T.E. (In God Now I Trust Everything)
Next session — Thursday, April 30 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, April 23 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 March 2 - 8, 2026

Masses	\$	15,847.00
Online	\$	4,823.00
Mail	\$	1,073.00
OLPH	\$	143.00

Grand Total \$ **21,889.00**

We are deeply grateful for your faithful stewardship and generosity.



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 23	Rose Babauta+
	Fr. Victor D'cruz (Birthday)
	Aiden Pragasam (Birthday)
Tuesday, March 24	Gianna Carmel Joseph+
	Susie Vaz (Birthday)
	Maria Ly Nguyen+ (Death Anniversary)
Wednesday, March 25	Corey Vickery
	Belinda De Mayo+
	Koon Aie Grace Chan+
OLPH	All Souls Living & Deceased+
Thursday, March 26	Betty Gomez+
	Agustin Boado+
	Minh Nguyen (Birthday)
	Joseph Bascos (Birthday)
Friday, March 27	Maria Do Thi Nga+
	Vincente Nguyen Cong Binh+
	Darren Rodricks (Birthday)
	Maria Mai Thi Duom+
Saturday, March 28	Agatha Xuan+
	Deacon Joseph Chuong Do+
	Belinda Demayo+
	Ashton Bascos (Birthday)
Saturday/Sunday, March 29	
4PM	Robert Sonny Mendinueto+
5:30PM	Leo Hồ Quý Chương+
	John Tuan Nguyen (Birthday)
8AM Chapel	Gianna Carmel Joseph+
	Rodrigo S. Ocampo (Birthday)
	Gioankim Ngo Van Khan+
8:15AM Villages	All Souls Living & Deceased+
10AM Chapel	Mary Kim Nguyen+
	Addie Reyes+
	Noelle Jackimiec+
12PM Chapel	Maria Kong+
	Artemio Roxas+
	Reynaldo R. Braga+
2PM Chapel (Spanish)	All Souls Living & Deceased+
4PM Chapel (Viet)	All Souls Living & Deceased+
6PM Chapel	Madison Bascos+
	Isabella Bascos (Birthday)

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.

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!

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 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Reading I:

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Reading II:

Romans 8:8-11

Gospel:

John 11:1-45

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

PALM SUNDAY

Reading I:

Isaiah 50:4-7

Reading II:

Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel:

Matthew 26:14-27:66

**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



This Lent, our parish is coming together to participate in the 51st annual CRS Rice Bowl program, a beautiful "faith-in-action" opportunity to live out the Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. By placing these iconic cardboard bowls on your dinner table, you join a global community dedicated to

ending hunger and poverty. This year, we journey with families in Ghana, Guatemala, and Timor-Leste, whose Stories of Hope remind us that we are one human family. Your small sacrifices—like choosing a meatless meal or skipping a daily treat—have a profound impact: 75% of your gifts support Catholic Relief Services' international humanitarian programs, while 25% remains right here in our own diocese to fund local hunger and poverty alleviation efforts.

EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Salubong 5:30am

6am, 8am, 8:15am (Villages), 10am,
12pm, 2pm (Spanish), 4pm (Vietnamese)

No 6pm Mass

****Easter Egg Hunt after the 10am Mass**

Meet in the Hall after Mass for instructions



Youth Volunteers Needed for **ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT**

Youth volunteers are needed to help with:

- 1. Filling Easter Eggs (in the office on weekdays)**
- 2. Hiding the eggs on Easter Sunday before 10am Mass**
- 3. Supervising prize stations after the egg hunt**
- 4. Traffic-control/supervising the outdoor boundary during the Egg Hunt**

