



*You received what was good, Lazarus what was bad; now he is comforted, whereas you are tormented.*

## *Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time September 25, 2022*

*Saint Francis of Assisi Parish  
Missions of Our Lady of the Valley in Fall River Mills  
and Saint Stephen's in Bieber*

### *Mission Statement*

*We, the Catholic Church of Saint Francis, are a community of faith called by Baptism to center our lives in the sacraments and the Holy Eucharist. We gather together to mutually grow in our love for God and neighbor by studying the Word of God; by believing in the Faith and Traditions from the Apostles; by accepting the teachings of the Magisterium and by receiving and giving support, hope, faith and charity.*

*Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís  
Misiones de Nuestra Señora del Valle en Fall River Mills  
y San Esteban en Bieber*

### *Nuestra Misión*

*Nosotros la Iglesia de San Francisco, somos una comunidad de Fe llamados por el Bautismo a centrar nuestra vida en los sacramentos y la Santa Eucarista. Nosotros nos reunimos para crecer mutuamente en nuestro amor a Dios y a nuestro semejante a través de estudiar la Palabra de Dios; a través de creer en la Fe y Tradición de los Apóstoles; a través de aceptar las enseñanzas del Magisterio y a través de recibir y dar Apoyo, Fe, Esperanza y Caridad.*

**St. Francis of Assisi Parish**

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**Rev. Fernando Meza,  
 Parochial Administrator**

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**MISSIONS**

Our Lady of the Valley      St. Stephen's  
 43434 Hwy. 299E              201 Hwy. 299E  
 Fall River Mills              Bieber

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**Weekends**

Saturday	4:30 pm	Our Lady of the Valley
Sunday	9:00 am	St. Francis
	11:00 am	Our Lady of the Valley (Spanish)
	1:00 pm	St. Stephen's

**Weekdays**

Mon, Tue, Fri	9:00 am	St. Francis
Thursday	6:00 pm	St. Francis (Spanish)
Friday	6:00 pm	Our Lady of the Valley (Spanish)

**ADORATION**

All Fridays	After Mass until 10 AM	St. Francis
1st Saturday	3:30 pm	Our Lady of the Valley
1st Sunday	11:45 am	St. Stephen's
Thursdays	3—6:00 pm	St. Francis
Fridays	11 am—6 pm	Our Lady of the Valley

**First Sunday of the Month all the Masses are said for the sick.**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)**

Confession is available one-half hour before scheduled Masses. Otherwise, call the parish for an appointment.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD BANK**

Food is available on request. Call the parish at 335-2372 for food anytime you are in need or call Bob Gartner at (530)768-6787.

**NEW PARISHIONERS**

Please register at our website [www.stfrancisburney.org](http://www.stfrancisburney.org)

**RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION FOR CHILDREN (CCD)**

Please contact  
 Elaine Shields (336-1003) or  
 Estella Valdovinos (524-6434) Spanish

**MUSIC: WEDDINGS & FUNERALS**

Please contact Joan Knapp (530) 294-1234

**BECOMING CATHOLIC (RCIA)**

Program of study for non-Catholic adults or Catholics seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation. Contact Bob Gartner at (530) 249-8641 or email: [bobgartner@gmail.com](mailto:bobgartner@gmail.com). Classes meet the second and fourth Saturday's at Our Lady of the Valley, 2:30-4:00 PM.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please contact Bob Gartner ([bobgartner@gmail.com](mailto:bobgartner@gmail.com))

**LECTORS**

**September 25**

Jim Billo  
 Carolyn Garfield

**October 2**

Karen Churney  
 Tom Weber

**CALENDAR**

Sun	Sept 25	World Day of Migrants & Refugees
Thu	Sept 29	Sts. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels
Sat-Sun	Oct 15-16	World Mission Sunday
Sat-Sun	Oct 29-30	CCD Collection
Tue	Nov 1	All Saints Day
Wed	Nov 2	All Souls Day

**For more information see our website at [www.stfrancisburney.org](http://www.stfrancisburney.org)**

**Sunday Readings**

First Reading: Amos 6:1a, 4-7  
 Psalm 146:7-10  
 Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:11-16  
 Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

**Hospitality at St. Stephen's**

Every Sunday is hospitality Sunday at St. Stephen's. Please join us for a nice lunch with soup/casserole, salad, bread, dessert and drinks. All are welcome, bring something to share if you can.

**Offertory Collections**

Fiscal Year Thru  
 9/11/2022

	Actual	Budget	Difference	%
St. Francis	8,182	9,900	-1,718	-17.4%
OLV-English	4,974	4,506	468	10.4%
OLV-Spanish	4,524	4,231	293	6.9%
St. Stephen's	4,931	5,331	-400	-7.5%
WeShare	2,470	1,662	808	48.7%
Other	20	0	20	
<b>Total Collections</b>	<b>25,101</b>	<b>25,629</b>	<b>-528</b>	<b>-2.1%</b>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We are in the process of planning a parish-wide retreat to be in English at Our Lady of the Valley on Saturday, October 22nd from 10-4pm. Everyone is invited to this one-day retreat focused on The True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. We'd like to determine the level of interest in this retreat before we proceed with plans. After Mass, there will be a list at the back of the church, please sign up if you're interested in attending or call Susan at 916-715-5264 before Wednesday, 9/28th.
- We have 58 students registered for CCD and 8 classes. We are very grateful to our volunteer teachers giving their time to share their faith with our children; however, in accordance with diocesan rules, two adults are to be present in each classroom. Therefore, in addition to the teacher, we need another adult in each classroom to comply with the rules. If you are able to volunteer (even if on a rotational basis), please contact your child's CCD teacher as soon as possible to see if you are needed.
- Father will be on vacation from October 2nd to October 19th. Father Pol Catada will be celebrating Mass in his absence. October 1st Masses will be at Our Lady of the Valley at 4:30pm (English) and at 6:30pm (Spanish). October 2nd Mass in Burney will be at 8am. No Mass at Our Lady of the Valley or in Bieber on Sunday, 10/2nd.
- Last October, Pope Francis asked bishops around the world to conduct listening sessions in preparation for the next Synod of Bishops in 2023. Many parishes in the Diocese of Sacramento answered the Holy Father's call, holding more than 250 listening sessions and hearing from more than 2,000 people. Today, we share "Toward an Enduring Season of Grace", a report prepared by the Diocese of Sacramento summarizing the listening sessions held in our diocese. Please visit <https://www.scd.org/synod/report> to read the report in English or <https://www.scd.org/synod/informe> for the report in Spanish.
- The next PPC meeting will be on November 19th at 3pm at Our Lady of the Valley. No meeting in October due to Father Meza's vacation.

### Gospel Reflection from Benedict XVI (2007)

Today, Luke's Gospel presents to us the parable of the rich man and poor Lazarus (Lk 16:19-31). The rich man personifies the wicked use of riches by those who spend them on uncontrolled and selfish luxuries, thinking solely of satisfying themselves without caring at all for the beggar at their door.

The poor man, on the contrary, represents the person whom God alone cares for: unlike the rich man he has a name: "Lazarus", an abbreviation of "Eleazarus", which means, precisely, "God helps him".

God does not forget those who are forgotten by all; those who are worthless in human eyes are precious in the Lord's. The story shows how earthly wickedness is overturned by divine justice: after his death, Lazarus was received "in the bosom of Abraham", that is, into eternal bliss; whereas the rich man ended up "in Hades, in torment". This is a new and definitive state of affairs against

which no appeal can be made, which is why one must mend one's ways during one's life; to do so after serves no purpose.

This parable can also be interpreted in a social perspective. Pope Paul VI's interpretation of it 40 years ago in his Encyclical *Populorum Progressio* remains unforgettable. Speaking of the campaign against hunger he wrote: "It is a question ... of building a world where every man ... can live a fully human life ... where the poor man Lazarus can sit down at the same table with the rich man" (n. 47).

The cause of the numerous situations of destitution, the Encyclical recalls, is on the one hand "servitude imposed ... by other men", and on the other, "natural forces over which [the person] has not sufficient control" (ibid.).

Unfortunately, some populations suffer from both these factors. How can we fail to think at this time especially of the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, affected by serious floods in the past few days? Nor can we forget the many other humanitarian emergencies in various regions of the planet, in which conflicts for political and economic power contribute to exacerbating existing, oppressive environmental situations.

The appeal voiced by Paul VI at that time, "Today the peoples in hunger are making a dramatic appeal to the peoples blessed with abundance" (ibid., n. 3), is still equally pressing today.

We cannot say that we do not know which way to take: we have the Law and the Prophets, Jesus tells us in the Gospel. Those who do not wish to listen to them would not change even if one of the dead were to return to admonish them.

May the Virgin Mary help us to make the most of the present time to listen to and put into practice these words of God. May she obtain for us that we become more attentive to our brethren in need, to share with them the much or the little that we have and to contribute, starting with ourselves, to spreading the logic and style of authentic solidarity.

### From the Weekly Audience of Pope Francis

Last week, from Tuesday to Thursday, I traveled to Kazakhstan, a vast country in Central Asia, for the Seventh Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions. I renew my gratitude to the President of the Republic and the other Authorities of Kazakhstan for the cordial welcome I was given and for the generous efforts in organizing it. I also sincerely thank the Bishops and all the collaborators for the great work they have done, and especially for the joy they have given me in being able to meet and see them all together.

As I said, the main reason for the trip was to take part in the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions. This initiative has been carried out for 20 years by the Authorities of the country, which presents itself to the world as a place of meeting and dialogue, in this case at the religious level, and thus as a leading player in promoting peace and human

brotherhood. It was the seventh edition of this congress. A country that has been independent for 30 years has already had seven editions of these congresses, one every three years. This means putting religions at the center of efforts to build a world where we listen to each other and respect each other in diversity. And this is not relativism, no, it is listening and respecting. And credit for this must be given to the Kazakh government, which, having freed itself from the yoke of the atheistic regime, now proposes a path of civilization, clearly condemning fundamentalism and extremism. It is a balanced position and one of unity.

The Congress discussed and approved the Final Declaration, which stands in continuity with the one signed in Abu Dhabi in February 2019 on human fraternity. I like to interpret this step forward as the fruit of a journey that starts from afar: I am thinking, of course, of the historic Interfaith Meeting for Peace convened by St. John Paul II in Assisi in 1986, much criticized by people who lacked vision; I am thinking of the far-sighted gaze of St. John XXIII and St. Paul VI; and also that of great souls of other religions – I limit myself to recalling Mahatma Gandhi. But how can we not remember so many martyrs, men and women of all ages, languages and nations, who paid with their lives for their fidelity to the God of peace and fraternity? We know: solemn moments are important, but then it is the daily commitment, it is the concrete witness that builds a better world for all.

In addition to the Congress, this trip gave me the opportunity to meet the Authorities of Kazakhstan and the Church living there.

After visiting the President of the Republic – who I thank again for his kindness – we went to the new Concert Hall, where I was able to speak to the political Leaders, representatives of civil society, and the Diplomatic Corps. I emphasized Kazakhstan's vocation to be a country of encounter: in fact, about one hundred and fifty ethnic groups – one hundred and fifty ethnic groups! – coexist there and more than eighty languages are spoken. This vocation, which is due to its geographical characteristics and history – this vocation of being a country of encounter, of culture, of language – has been welcomed and embraced as a path, which deserves to be encouraged and supported. I hoped as well that the construction of an increasingly mature democracy, capable of effectively responding to the needs of society as a whole, could continue. This is an arduous task, which takes time, but already it must be acknowledged that Kazakhstan has made very positive choices, such as saying “no” to nuclear weapons and making good energy and environmental policies. This was courageous. At a time when this tragic war brings us to the point where some people are thinking of nuclear weapons, that madness, this country says “no” to nuclear weapons from the very beginning.

As for the Church, I was so glad to meet a community of happy, joyful people filled with enthusiasm. Catholics are few in that vast country. But this condition, if lived with faith, can bring evangelical fruits: first of all, the blessedness of littleness, of being leaven, salt, and light

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

#### St. Francis

Ray Wanat, Irma Welty, Melba Facey, Christina Mora,  
Glenda Pearson & Barbara, Bob Heisinger

#### Our Lady of the Valley

Rick Phay, Gary Freeland

#### St. Stephen's

Rose Lessa, Olivia Cox, Ryan Graham, Vernon Ferreira,  
Trish Bautista, Nancy Fenner, Liz Paul,  
Breen Hofmann, Carl & Mary Doyle, Carol Mitchell,  
Joan Knapp, Chris Patterson

#### The Holy Father's Prayer Intention (September)

For the abolition of the death penalty

We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.

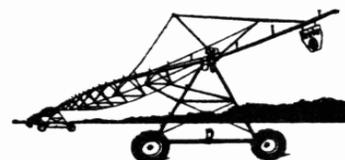
relying solely on the Lord and not on some form of human relevance. Moreover, numerical scarcity invites the development of relationships with Christians of other denominations, and also fraternity with all. So a small flock, yes, but open, not closed, not defensive, open and trusting in the action of the Holy Spirit, who blows freely where and how He wills. We also remembered that grey part, the martyrs, the martyrs of that holy People of God, because they suffered decades of atheistic oppression, until liberation thirty years ago, men and women who suffered so much for the faith during the long period of persecution. Murdered, tortured, imprisoned for the faith.

With this small but joyful flock, we celebrated the Eucharist, also at Nur Sultan, in the Expo 2017 plaza, surrounded by ultra-modern architecture. It was the feast of the Holy Cross. And this leads us to reflect: in a world in which progress and regression are intertwined, the Cross of Christ remains the anchor of salvation: a sign of hope that does not disappoint because it is founded on the love of God, merciful and faithful. Our gratitude goes out to Him for this journey, as does our prayer that it will be rich in fruit for the future of Kazakhstan and for the life of the pilgrim Church in that land. Thank you.

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