



*The tax collector, not the Pharisee, went home justified.*

## *Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time October 23, 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 Eucaristía. 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**

PO Box 160, 37464 Juniper Avenue  
Burney, CA 96013  
Tel. (530) 335-2372

**Rev. Fernando Meza,**  
**Parochial Administrator**

Website: [www.stfrancisburney.org](http://www.stfrancisburney.org)  
e-mail: [pastor@stfrancisburney.org](mailto:pastor@stfrancisburney.org)  
[www.facebook.com/stfrancisburney](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisburney)  
[www.facebook.com/francisco.deasis.16100921](https://www.facebook.com/francisco.deasis.16100921)  
Bulletin Editor: David Wanat (530)250-7466  
[convoyb@gmail.com](mailto:convoyb@gmail.com)

**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****October 23**

Sandy Ogden  
Carolyn Garfield

**October 30**

Bob Gartner  
Jim Billo

**CALENDAR**

Sat-Sun	Oct 29-30	CCD Collection
Tue	Nov 1	All Saints Day
Wed	Nov 2	All Souls Day
Sun	Nov 6	Daylight Savings Time ends
Sun	Nov 13	World Day of the Poor
Sun	Nov 20	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Thu	Nov 24	Thanksgiving

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

**Sunday Readings**

First Reading: Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18  
Psalm: 34:2-3, 17-19, 23  
Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18  
Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

**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  
10/16/2022

	Actual	Budget	Difference	%
St. Francis	11,049	14,400	-3,351	-23.3%
OLV-English	6,657	6,554	103	1.6%
OLV-Spanish	6,553	6,154	399	6.5%
St. Stephen's	5,913	7,754	-1,841	-23.7%
WeShare	4,173	4,154	19	0.5%
Picnic	838	0	838	
Other	20	0	20	
<b>Total Collections</b>	<b>35,202</b>	<b>39,015</b>	<b>-3,813</b>	<b>-9.8%</b>

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **National Vocation Awareness Week** will be celebrated in our country **November 6-12, 2022**. Please ask Our Lord for more dedicated, holy priests, deacons, and consecrated men and women. May they be inspired by Jesus Christ, supported by our faith community, and respond generously to God's gift of vocation.
- The next **PPC meeting** will be on **November 19th** at 3pm at Our Lady of the Valley.

- **Offertory Collections** are \$3,813 (9.8%) under budget through 16 weeks of the fiscal year.
- **Have you ever considered working for the Diocese of Sacramento?** The Diocese of Sacramento is a place where you are able to grow your faith while serving the ministry and mission of the Bishop of Sacramento. As Catholics, we believe that all persons are called by God to contribute to the sanctification and transformation of the world, by fulfilling their own particular duties in the spirit of the Gospel and Christian discipleship. Listed below are openings that are currently seeking to be filled by our practicing Catholics:  
Payroll Specialist  
Auditor (Bilingual), Tribunal  
Administrative Assistant, Office of the Bishop  
IT Network Administrator  
Program Coordinator- Sacramento Newman Catholic Center  
To apply for a position, please email a short cover letter, resume, and application to [personnel@scd.org](mailto:personnel@scd.org). Positions are open until filled. For more information and complete job descriptions, visit [www.scd.org/](http://www.scd.org/) employment.

### **Gospel Reflection from St. John Paul II (*Veritatis Splendor* 104-105)**

In this context, appropriate allowance is made both for God's mercy towards the sinner who converts and for the understanding of human weakness. Such understanding never means compromising and falsifying the standard of good and evil in order to adapt it to particular circumstances. It is quite human for the sinner to acknowledge his weakness and to ask mercy for his failings; what is unacceptable is the attitude of one who makes his own weakness the criterion of the truth about the good, so that he can feel self-justified, without even the need to have recourse to God and his mercy. An attitude of this sort corrupts the morality of society as a whole, since it encourages doubt about the objectivity of the moral law in general and a rejection of the absoluteness of moral prohibitions regarding specific human acts, and it ends up by confusing all judgments about values.

Instead, we should take to heart the message of the Gospel parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector (cf. Lk 18:9-14). The tax collector might possibly have had some justification for the sins he committed, such as to diminish his responsibility. But his prayer does not dwell on such justifications, but rather on his own unworthiness before God's infinite holiness: "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" (Lk 18:13). The Pharisee, on the other hand, is self-justified, finding some excuse for each of his failings. Here we encounter two different attitudes of the moral conscience of man in every age. The tax collector represents a "repentant" conscience, fully aware of the frailty of its own nature and seeing in its own failings, whatever their subjective justifications, a confirmation of its need for redemption. The Pharisee represents a "self-satisfied" conscience, under the illusion that it is able to observe the law without the help of grace and convinced that it

does not need mercy.

All people must take great care not to allow themselves to be tainted by the attitude of the Pharisee, which would seek to eliminate awareness of one's own limits and of one's own sin. In our own day this attitude is expressed particularly in the attempt to adapt the moral norm to one's own capacities and personal interests, and even in the rejection of the very idea of a norm. Accepting, on the other hand, the "disproportion" between the law and human ability (that is, the capacity of the moral forces of man left to himself) kindles the desire for grace and prepares one to receive it. "Who will deliver me from this body of death?" asks the Apostle Paul. And in an outburst of joy and gratitude he replies: "Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Rom 7:24-25).

### **From the General Audience of Pope Francis**

In the catecheses of these weeks we are focusing on the prerequisites for good discernment. In life we have to make decisions, always, and to make decisions we must follow a journey, a path of discernment. Every important activity has its "instructions" to follow, which must be known in order for them to produce the necessary effects. Today we will look at another indispensable ingredient for discernment: one's own life story. Knowing one's own life story is, let's say, an essential ingredient for discernment.

Our life is the most precious "book" that is given to us, a book that unfortunately many do not read, or rather they do so too late, before dying. And yet, precisely in that book that one finds what one pointlessly seeks elsewhere. Saint Augustine, a great seeker of the truth, had understood this just by rereading his life, noting in it the silent and discreet, but incisive, steps of the presence of the Lord. At the end of this journey, he noted with wonder: "You were within, and I without, and there I did seek you; I, unlovely, rushed heedlessly among the things of beauty you made. You were with me, but I was not with you" (Confessions X, 27.38). Hence his invitation to cultivate the inner life to find what one is seeking: "Return within yourself. In the inner man dwells truth" (On True Religion, XXXIX, 72). This is an invitation I would extend to all of you, and even to myself: "Return within yourself. Read your life. Read yourself inwardly, the path you have taken. With serenity. Return within yourself".

Many times, we too have had Augustine's experience, of finding ourselves imprisoned by thoughts that lead us away from ourselves, stereotypical messages that harm us: for example, "I am worthless" – and it gets you down; "everything goes wrong for me" – and it gets you down; "I will never achieve anything worthwhile" – and it gets you down, and this becomes your life. These pessimistic phrases that get you down! Reading one's own history also means recognizing the presence of these "toxic" elements, but then broadening our narrative, learning to notice other things, making it richer, more respectful of com-

plexity, succeeding also in grasping the discreet ways in which God acts in our life. I once knew a person who people said deserved the Nobel Prize in negativity: everything was bad, everything, and he always tried to put himself down. He was a bitter person, and yet he had many qualities. And then this person found another person who helped him, and every time he complained about something, the other one used to say: "But now, to compensate, say something good about yourself". And he would say: "Well, yes... I also have this quality", and bit by bit this helped him move forward, to read well his own life, both the bad things and the good things. We must read our life, and by doing so we see things that are not good and also the good things that God sows in us.

We have seen that discernment has a narrative approach; it does not dwell on the punctual action, but rather inserts it in a context: where does this thought come from? What I am feeling now, where does it come from? Where does it lead me, what I am thinking now? When have I encountered it before? Is it something new that comes to mind only now, or have I found it other times? Why is it more insistent than others? What is life trying to tell me with this?

Recounting the events of our life also enables us to grasp important nuances and details, which can reveal themselves to be valuable aids, hitherto concealed. For example, a reading, a service, an encounter, at first sight considered to be of little importance, over time transmit inner peace; they transmit the joy of living and suggest further good initiatives. Stopping and acknowledging this is essential. Stopping and acknowledging: it is important for discernment; it is a task of gathering those precious and hidden pearls that the Lord has scattered in our soil.

Goodness is hidden, always, because goodness is modest and hides itself: goodness is hidden; it is silent, it requires slow and continuous excavation. Because God's style is discreet: God likes to go unseen, with discretion, he does not impose; he is like the air we breathe - we do not see it but it allows us to live, and we realize this only when it is missing.

Getting used to rereading one's own life educates the outlook, it sharpens it, enables it to note the small miracles that good God works for us every day. When we realize this, we notice other possible directions that strengthen our inner taste, peace and creativity. Above all, it makes us freer from toxic stereotypes. Wisely it has been said that the man who does not know his own past is condemned to repeat it. It is strange: if we do not know the path we have taken, the past, we always repeat it, we go around in circles. The person who walks in circles never goes forward; it is not progress, it is like the dog who chases his own tail; he always goes this way, and repeats things.

We might ask ourselves: have I ever recounted my life to anyone? This is a beautiful experience of engaged couples, who when they become serious, tell their life story... It is one of the most beautiful and intimate forms of communication, recounting one's own life. It allows us to discover hitherto unknown things, small and sim-

## 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 (October)

For a Church open to everyone

We pray for the Church; ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.

ple but, as the Gospel says, it is precisely from the little things that the great things are born (cf. Lk 16:10).

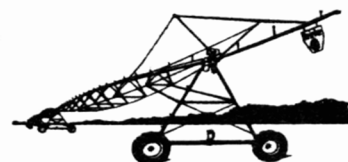
The lives of the saints also constitute a precious aid in recognizing the style of God in one's own life: the permit us to become familiar with his way of acting. Some of the saints' behaviour challenges us, shows us new meanings and opportunities. This is what happened, for example, to Saint Ignatius of Loyola. When describing the fundamental discovery of his life, he adds an important clarification, and he says: "From experience he deduced that some thoughts left him sad, others cheerful; and little by little he learnt to know the diversity of thoughts, the diversity of the spirits that stirred within him" (cf. Autobiography, no. 8). Knowing what happens within us, knowing, being aware.

Discernment is the narrative reading of the good moments and the dark moments, the consolations and desolations we experience in the course of our lives. In discernment, it is the heart that speaks to us about God, and we must learn to understand its language. Let us ask, at the end of the day, for example: what happened today in my heart? Some think that carrying out this examination of conscience is to calculate the balance of sins - and we commit many - but it is also about asking oneself, "What happened within me, did I experience joy? What brought me joy? Was I sad? What brought me sadness? And in this way, we learn to discern what happens within us.

## COPPS IRRIGATION

### THE IRRIGATION SPECIALISTS

A Full Service Company - Sales - Parts Service



**JIM COPP**

Jct. 139-299

P.O. Box 192

Adin, CA 96006

1-888-299-3477

530-299-3477

Fax - 530-299-3344