



Lord, remember me when You come into your kingdom.

THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING **November 20, 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) 330-5077

**Rev. Fernando Meza,
Parochial Administrator**

Website: www.stfrancisburney.org
e-mail: pastor@stfrancisburney.org
www.facebook.com/stfrancisburney
www.facebook.com/francisco.deasis.16100921
Bulletin Editor: David Wanat (530) 250-7466
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 330-5077 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

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) 768-6787 or email: 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)

LECTORS

November 20

Sandy Ogden
Tom Weber

November 27

Kathy Billo
Carolyn Garfield

CALENDAR

Sat-Sun	Nov 19-20	Second Collection for Catholic Campaign for Human Development
Sat-Sun	Nov 19-20	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Thu	Nov 24	Thanksgiving (*see Mass schedule below)
Sun	Nov 27	First Sunday of Advent
Thu	Dec 8	Holy Day of Obligation— Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (*see Mass schedule below)
Sat-Sun	Dec 10-11	Second Collection for Retirement Fund for the Religious

For more information see our website at www.stfrancisburney.org

Sunday Readings

First Reading: 2 Samuel 5:1–3
Psalm 122:1–5
Second Reading: Colossians 1:12–20
Gospel: Luke 23:35–43

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
11/13/2022

	Actual	Budget	Difference	%
St. Francis	12,763	18,000	-5,237	-29.1%
OLV-English	8,437	8,192	245	3.0%
OLV-Spanish	8,280	7,692	588	7.6%
St. Stephen's	8,049	9,692	-1,643	-17.0%
WeShare	4,173	4,154	19	0.5%
Picnic	838	0	838	
Other	20	0	20	
Total Collections	42,560	47,730	-5,170	-10.8%

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Second Collection today to support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.** The collection works to end poverty and injustice. Twenty-five percent of the funds collected remain in the our diocese to fund local anti-poverty projects. "By supporting this collection, you are giving those on the margins a hand up, not a

handout. CCHD responds to the call to accompany our brothers and sisters experiencing poverty: "Where the poor are concerned, it is not talk that matters; what matters is rolling up our sleeves and putting our faith into practice through a direct involvement, one that cannot be delegated." says Pope Francis.

- **Masses for Thanksgiving*** are: St. Francis 9:00AM, Our Lady of the Valley (Spanish) 11:00AM, and St. Stephen's 1:00PM.
- **Masses for Immaculate Conception, Thursday, December 8th*—Holy Day** are: St. Francis 9:00AM, St. Stephen's 12:00 Noon, and Our Lady of the Valley (Spanish) 6:30PM.
- **Masses for Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe, Monday, December 12th** are: Our Lady of the Valley Mananitas 6:00AM, St. Francis 9:00AM, and Our Lady of the Valley 6:30PM.
- The **parish telephone number** has changed. The new number in (530) 330-5077.
- **Offertory Collections are \$5,170 (10.8%) under budget** through 20 weeks of the fiscal year.
- This Thanksgiving, as we reflect with gratitude for the many blessings God has given us, Catholics throughout our Diocese are invited to visit www.scd.org to view the **2022 Annual Catholic Appeal "Report of Gratitude."** See how, together as Catholics, parishioners have made a real difference to others. This year, more than 380,000 individuals and families were helped by 18 Northern California charities that received funds from the Appeal. The 2022 Appeal is approaching \$4.3 million in commitments so far. Our parish receives 25% of any gift made by parishioners here. If you have not yet participated, prayerfully consider a donation. No contribution, no act of charity is ever too small or insignificant. Envelopes are available here at the parish or donate online at www.scd.org.

Gospel Reflection from Benedict XVI

The Solemnity of Christ the King was established by Pius XI in 1925 and, later, after the Second Vatican Council, it was placed at the close of the liturgical year. The Gospel according to St Luke presents, as in a great painting, the kingship of Jesus at the moment of his Crucifixion. The leaders of the people and the soldiers taunt "the first-born of all creation" (Col 1:15) and put him to the test to see whether he has the power to save himself from death (cf. Luke 23:35–37).

Yet precisely: "on the Cross, Jesus is exalted to the very 'height' of the God who is Love. It is there that he can be 'known'.... Jesus gives us 'life' because he gives us God. He can give God because he himself is one with God" (Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth* (English translation, Doubleday, New York, 2007, pp. 349 and 354).

In fact, while the Lord seems to be mistaken because he is between two wrong-doers, one of them, aware of his sins, opens himself to truth, arrives at faith and prays "the King of the Jews": "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Lk 23:42).

From the One who "is before all things, and in him all things hold together" (Col 1:17) the so-called "Good

Thief" straight away receives forgiveness and the joy of entering the Kingdom of Heaven. "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (Lk 23:43). With these words, Jesus, from the throne of the Cross welcomes every human being with infinite mercy.

St Ambrose comments that this "is a beautiful example of conversion to which one should aspire: forgiveness is very quickly offered to the thief and grace is more abundant than the request; the Lord in fact", St Ambrose says, "always gives more than is asked for.... Life is being with Christ because where Christ is there is the Kingdom" (Expositio Ev. sec. Lucam X, 121: ccl 14, 379).

Dear Friends, we can also contemplate in Christian art the way of love that the Lord reveals to us and invites us to take. In fact, in the past "in the arrangement of Christian sacred buildings ... it became customary to depict the Lord returning as a king—the symbol of hope—at the east end; while the west wall normally portrayed the Last Judgement as a symbol of our responsibility for our lives" (Encyclical *Spe Salvi*, n. 41): hope in the infinite love of God and commitment to ordering our life in accordance with the love of God.

When we contemplate depictions of Jesus inspired by the New Testament—as an ancient Council teaches—we are led to "understand ... the sublimity and the humiliation of the Word of God and ... to remember his life in the flesh, his Passion and his salvific death, and the redemption that the world derived from it" (Council in Trullo, [691 or 692], can. 82).

"Yes, we need it, precisely to ... become capable of recognizing in the pierced heart of the Crucified One the mystery of God"

From the Audience of Pope Francis

Today, let us resume the catecheses on the theme of discernment. We have seen how important it is to read what stirs within us, so as not to make hasty decisions, spurred by the emotion of the moment, only to regret them when it is too late. That is, to read what happens and then make decisions.

In this sense, even the spiritual state we call desolation, when in the heart everything is dark, it is sad, these things, this state of desolation can be an opportunity for growth. Indeed, if there is not a little dissatisfaction, a little healthy sadness, a healthy capacity to dwell in solitude and to stay by ourselves without fleeing, we risk always remaining on the surface of things and never making contact with the core of our existence. Desolation causes a "rousing of the soul": when one is sad it is as if the soul were shaken; it keeps us alert, it fosters vigilance and humility, and protects us from the winds of fancy. These are indispensable conditions for progress in life, and hence also in the spiritual life. A perfect but "aseptic" serenity, without feeling, when it becomes the criterion for decisions and behaviour, makes us inhuman. We cannot ignore our feelings: we are human and senti-

ment is a part of our humanity. And without understanding feelings we are inhuman; without living our sentiments we will also be indifferent to the sufferings of others and incapable of accepting our own. Not to mention that such a "perfect serenity" cannot be reached by this path of indifference. This sterile distance: "I won't get involved in things, I will keep my distance": this is not life, it is as though we lived in a laboratory, shut away, so as not to have microbes and diseases. For many saints, restlessness was a decisive impetus to turn their lives around. This artificial serenity will not do. Yes, a healthy restlessness is fine, the restless heart, the heart that seeks its way. This is the case, for example, of Augustine of Hippo, Edith Stein, Joseph Benedict Cottolengo, or Charles de Foucauld. Important choices come at a price that life presents, a price that is within reach of everyone; or rather, the important choices do not come from the lottery, no; they have a price and you have to pay that price. It is a price that you must pay with your heart, it is the price of the decision, the price of making some effort. It is not free of charge, but it is a price within reach of everyone. We must all pay for this decision so as to leave behind the state of indifference. The state of indifference brings us down, always.

Desolation is also an invitation to gratuitousness, to not acting always and solely with a view to emotional gratification. Being desolate offers us the possibility of growth, of initiating a more mature, more beautiful relationship with the Lord and with our loved ones, a relationship that is not reduced to a mere exchange of giving and having. Let us think of our childhood, for example, think: as children, it often happens that we look for our parents to obtain something from them, a toy, some money to buy an ice cream, permission... And so, we look for them not for themselves, but for personal gain. And yet, the greatest gift is them, our parents, and we understand this gradually as we grow up.

Many of our prayers are also somewhat like this: they are requests for favours addressed to the Lord, without any real interest in him. We go to ask, to ask, to ask the Lord. The Gospel notes that Jesus was often surrounded by many people who sought him out in order to obtain something: healing, material assistance, but not simply to be with him. He was pushed by the crowds, yet he was alone. Some saints, and even some artists, have contemplated this condition of Jesus. It may seem strange, unreal, to ask the Lord: "How are you?" Instead, it is a beautiful way to enter into a true, sincere relationship, with his humanity, with his suffering, even with his singular solitude. With him, with the Lord, who wanted to share his life with us to the full.

It does us a great deal of good to learn to be with him, to be with the Lord, to learn to be with the Lord without ulterior motives, exactly as it happens with people we care for: we wish to know them more and more, because it is good to be with them.

Dear brothers and sisters, the spiritual life is not a technique at our disposal, it is not a programme for inner "wellbeing" that it is up to us to plan. No. The spiritual life is the relationship with the Living One, with God, the Living One who cannot be reduced to our catego-

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 (November)

For children who suffer

We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

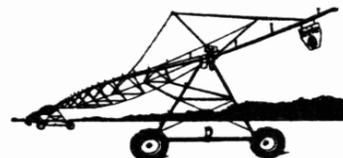
ries. And desolation, then, is the clearest response to the objection that the experience of God is a form of wishful thinking, a simple projection of our desires. Desolation is not feeling anything, when everything is dark, but you seek God in the desolation. In that case, if we think that he is a projection of our desires, we would always be the ones to plan, and we would always be happy and content, like a record that repeats the same music. Instead, those who pray realize that the outcome is unpredictable: experiences and passages from the Bible that have often enthralled us, today, strangely, do not move us. And, equally unexpectedly, experiences, encounters and readings that we have never paid much attention to or preferred to avoid – such as the experience of the cross – bring immense peace. Do not fear desolation; face it with perseverance, do not evade it. And in desolation, try to find the heart of Christ, to find the Lord. And the answer will come, always.

Faced with difficulties, therefore, never be discouraged, please, but confront the test with determination, with the help of the grace of God, which is never lacking. And if we hear within us an insistent voice that wants to turn us away from prayer, let us learn to unmask it as the voice of the tempter; and let us not be influenced; let us simply do the opposite of what it tells us! Thank you.

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