



*Stay awake, that you may be prepared!*

*The First Sunday of Advent  
November 27, 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  
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Tel. (530) 330-5077

**Rev. Fernando Meza,  
Parochial Administrator**

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#### MISSIONS

Our Lady of the Valley 43434 Hwy. 299E Fall River Mills	St. Stephen's 201 Hwy. 299E Bieber
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#### 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](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) 768-6787 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

#### November 27

Kathy Billo  
Carolyn Garfield

#### December 4

Sandy Ogden  
Bob Gartner

### CALENDAR

Sun	Nov 27	First Sunday of Advent
Thu	Dec 8	<b>Holy Day of Obligation—</b> Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (*see Mass schedule below)
Sat-Sun	Dec 10-11	Second Collection for Retirement Fund for the Religious
Mon	Dec 12	The Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe
Sun	Dec 25	Nativity of The Lord
Mon	Dec 26	St. Stephen, The First Martyr
Sun	Jan 1	Mary, the Holy Mother of God

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

### Sunday Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1–5  
Psalm 122:1–9  
Second Reading: Romans 13:11–14  
Gospel: Matthew 24:37–44

### 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  
11/20/2022

	Actual	Budget	Difference	%
St. Francis	13,932	18,900	-4,968	-26.3%
OLV-English	9,305	8,602	703	8.2%
OLV-Spanish	8,677	8,077	600	7.4%
St. Stephen's	8,244	10,177	-1,933	-19.0%
WeShare	4,173	4,154	19	0.5%
Picnic	838	0	838	
Other	20	0	20	
<b>Total Collections</b>	<b>45,189</b>	<b>49,910</b>	<b>-4,721</b>	<b>-9.5%</b>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **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 McArthur Fairgrounds 6:30PM.
- The **parish telephone number** has changed. The new number in (530) 330-5077.
- **Offertory Collections are \$4,721 (9.5%) 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](http://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](http://www.scd.org).

### Advent Reflection by Saint Cyril of Jerusalem

We do not preach only one coming of Christ, but a second as well, much more glorious than the first. The first coming was marked by patience; the second will bring the crown of a divine kingdom.

In general, what relates to our Lord Jesus Christ has two aspects. There is a birth from God before the ages, and a birth from a virgin at the fullness of time. There is a hidden coming, like that of rain on fleece, and a coming before all eyes, still in the future.

At the first coming he was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At his second coming he will be clothed in light as in a garment. In the first coming he endured the cross, despising the shame; in the second coming he will be in glory, escorted by an army of angels. We look then beyond the first coming and await the second. At the first coming we said: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. At the second we shall say it again; we shall go out with the angels to meet the Lord and cry out in adoration: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

The Savior will not come to be judged again, but to

judge those by whom he was judged. At his own judgment he was silent; then he will address those who committed the outrages against him when they crucified him and will remind them: You did these things, and I was silent.

His first coming was to fulfill his plan of love, to teach men by gentle persuasion. This time, whether men like it or not, they will be subjects of his kingdom by necessity. Malachi the prophet speaks of the two comings. And the Lord whom you seek will come suddenly to his temple: that is one coming.

Again he says of another coming: Look, the Lord almighty will come, and who will endure the day of his entry, or who will stand in his sight? Because he comes like a refiner's fire, a fuller's herb, and he will sit refining and cleansing.

These two comings are also referred to by Paul in writing to Titus: The grace of God the Savior has appeared to all men, instructing us to put aside impiety and worldly desires and live temperately, uprightly, and religiously in this present age, waiting for the joyful hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Notice how he speaks of a first coming for which he gives thanks, and a second, the one we still await.

That is why the faith we profess has been handed on to you in these words: He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

Our Lord Jesus Christ will therefore come from heaven. He will come at the end of the world, in glory, at the last day. For there will be an end to this world, and the created world will be made new.

### From the General Audience of Pope Francis

In the First Reading we heard the Prophet Isaiah speak to us about a journey, and he says that in the latter days, at the end of the journey, the mountain of the Lord's Temple shall be established as the highest mountain. He says this to tell us that our life is a journey: we must go on this journey to arrive at the mountain of the Lord, to encounter Jesus. The most important thing that can happen to a person is to meet Jesus: this encounter with Jesus who loves us, who has saved us, who has given his life for us. Encounter Jesus. And we are journeying in order to meet Jesus.

We could ask ourselves this question: But

when do I meet Jesus? Only at the end? No, no! We meet him every day. How? In prayer, when you pray, you meet Jesus. When you receive Communion, you meet Jesus in the Sacraments. When you bring your child to be baptized, you meet Jesus, you find Jesus. And today, you who are receiving Confirmation, you too will encounter Jesus; then you will meet him in Communion. "And then, Father, after Confirmation, goodbye?", because they say that Confirmation is called "the sacrament of goodbye". Is this true or not? After Confirmation you never go back to Church: true or false?... so, so! However, after Confirmation even, our whole life is an encounter with Jesus: in prayer, when we go to Mass, and when we do good works, when we visit the sick, when we help the poor, when we think of others, when we are not selfish, when we are loving ... in these things we always meet Jesus. And the journey of life is precisely this: journeying in order to meet Jesus.

And today, it is also a joy for me to come and visit you, because today in the Mass we shall all meet Jesus, and we will walk a portion of the journey together.

Always remember this: life is a journey. It is a path, a journey to meet Jesus. At the end, and forever. A journey in which we do not encounter Jesus is not a Christian journey. It is for the Christian to continually encounter Jesus, to watch him, to let himself be watched over by Jesus, because Jesus watches us with love; he loves us so much, he loves us so much and he is always watching over us. To encounter Jesus also means allowing oneself to be gazed upon by him. "But, Father, you know," one of you might say to me, "you know that this journey is horrible for me, I am such a sinner, I have committed many sins ... how can I encounter Jesus?". And you know that the people whom Jesus most sought out were the greatest sinners; and they reproached him for this, and the people—those who believed themselves righteous—would say: this is no true prophet, look what lovely company he keeps! He was with sinners.... And he said: I came for those in need of salvation, in need of healing. Jesus heals our sins. And along the way Jesus comes and forgives us—all of us sinners, we are all sinners—even when we make a mistake, when we commit a sin, when we sin. And this forgiveness that we receive in Confession is an encounter with Jesus. We always encounter Jesus.

So let us go forward in life like this, as the Prophet says, to the mountain, until the day when we shall attain the final encounter, when we will be able to look upon the beautiful gaze of Jesus, it is so beautiful. This is the Christian life: to walk, to go

## 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.

forward, united as brothers and sisters, loving one another. Encounter Jesus. Do you agree, the nine of you? Do you want to meet Jesus in your lives? Yes? This is important in the Christian life. Today, with the seal of the Holy Spirit, you will have greater strength for the journey, for the encounter with Jesus. Take courage, do not be afraid! Life is this journey. And the most beautiful gift is to meet Jesus. Go forward, be brave!

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