

# The Franciscan

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

900 H. Street, Bakersfield CA 93304

Phone: 661-327-4734 / Fax: 661-377-0363

Security for the Church & School: 661-201-2489

[www.stfran.org](http://www.stfran.org)



## Bulletin for : Sunday, July 4, 2021 ~ Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Mass Schedule

#### Saturday

8:00 AM (English)

5:00 PM (Vigil, English)

7:00 PM (Vietnamese)

#### Sunday

6:45 AM (English)

8:30 AM (English)

10:30 AM (English)

+ Livestreaming on Facebook

12:30 PM (Spanish)

5:00 PM (English)

#### Weekdays

6:30 AM (English)

12:10 PM (English)

#### Sacrament of Penance

Saturdays: beginning at 8:30 AM  
until 9:30 AM or by appointment.

#### Eucharistic Adoration

Monday thru Friday 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM

#### Anointing of the Sick

First Friday of the month immediately  
following the 12:10 PM Mass.

*The Mission of St. Francis of Assisi Parish is to provide a safe, welcoming environment of Catholic worship, evangelization & fellowship, living in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.*

### St. Francis Parish Clergy

Rev. Theophane N. Antony, Administrator Pro-Tem

Rev. Joseph Lawrence, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Jorge Ramirez, Parochial Vicar & Hospital Ministry

Rev. Jude Okonkwo, Parochial Vicar & Hospital Ministry

Deacon Joseph Lubatti

Deacon Francis Moore

Deacon Hugo Navarrete

Deacon Scotty Bourne, Ret. Detention Ministry

Rev. Msgr. Nathaniel Diokwere, Ret. - In Residence

### St. Francis Parish School

Rev. Theophane N. Antony, Administrator Pro-Tem

Kelli Gruszka, Principal

Cindy Schoorl, Vice Principal

2516 Palm Street, Bakersfield, CA 93304

Phone: 661-326-7955/Fax: 661-327-0395

[www.stfrancisparishschool.com](http://www.stfrancisparishschool.com)

Grades (Pre-Kindergarten-8th)

### St. Francis Religious Education

Jerry Torres, Director of Religious Education

900 H Street, Bakersfield, CA 93304

Phone: 661-323-8800 Ext. 234

Email: [jtorres@stfran.org](mailto:jtorres@stfran.org)

### Front Office

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### Accounting

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[rsee@stfran.org](mailto:rsee@stfran.org)

### Weddings

Rebecca Hyatt, Wedding Coordinator  
[fmarchetti@stfran.org](mailto:fmarchetti@stfran.org)

# St. Francis Parish ~ Priest's Page

## The Price of Your Freedom

Last week I had the honor to spend some time with one of our many Veterans, Bob Byrne. Bob was a sailor and served 30 years with the Navy. Personally, I love to hear the stories of our veterans and it is thrilling to hear their breathtaking combat missions and dangerous adventures. Most of Bob Byrne years were served in a submarine that was 300 feet long, weighing 1800 tons. Wow Bob! Thank you for sharing your brave stories with me.

When I first went to the Veterans Hospital, a caption at the hospital entrance caught my attention- "The price of your freedom is visible here". I looked around and saw many of our heroes. Some were on wheelchairs, yet their spirit was strong. I became a volunteer at the Veterans Hospital, and it was such a joy to give back to our veterans.

As we celebrate the Fourth of July, we give thanks to God for our great country. In a special way, we remember and honor the patriotism, sacrifice and contributions of the men and women who are currently serving our country, those that gave their lives, and all the Veterans.

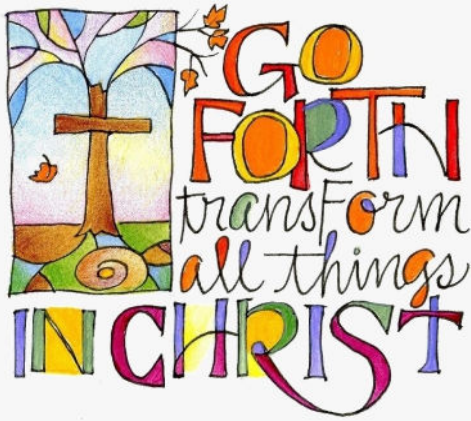
Someone has paid the price for everything we enjoy today. Let us be grateful to them. "May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right" says Peter Marshall. Freedom always comes with responsibility; that's why Jesus said give to Cesar (authority) what belongs to Cesar and give to God what belongs to God.

The Holy Bible promises that Christ has set us free. He will deliver us from slavery of sin, anxiety, and fear. "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. (Gal, 5, 1). The Lord has paid the price of our freedom, and He has liberated us from the clutches of sin and disappointment. Again, Saint Paul says, Unload all your worries on to him, for He cares for you. May the Lord Bless us with the true freedom of the Children of God. Indeed we are!

Happy Independence Day,  
Fr Theo.



# St. Francis Parish News & Announcements



## *Religious Education*

Register for Religious Education Classes!

Registration forms for all sacraments are available in the Main Office of the Church.

## *Sanctuary Lamps*

Prayers for the living loved ones, relatives, friends & pets of Elsa Zsa.

Prayers for the departed loved ones, relatives & friends of Elsa Zsa.

Isabelle Church & Family

Raul Garcia Ramos

Carmelita A. Albano

Michael France

Walt Widhalm

## *Eucharistic Adoration*

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is being held in Mary's Chapel immediately following Daily Mass. Monday - Friday, 7 AM until 5PM, and Saturday's 8AM to 12PM.

Everyone is encouraged to spend time with Our Lord in quiet prayer, while abiding by the current Covid19 safety practices. Please consider volunteering as a Monitor of the Blessed Sacrament for an hour each week. Currently we need monitors for the following hours:

**Mondays:** 9 AM, **Tuesdays:** 7 AM, & **Saturdays:** 9 AM

Call Darren Caskey @ 661-333-8541 or the church office to volunteer!

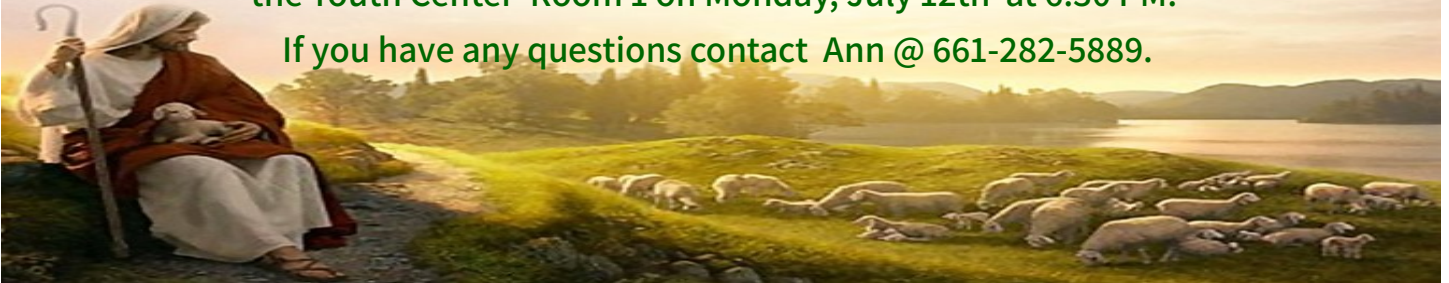




# St. Francis Parish News & Announcements

Are you seeking spiritual strength, encouragement & hope? St. Francis Parish is offering a new ministry, *Divine Connections!* The ministry will be a source of support for those dealing with a difficult family situation, relationship crisis, feelings of isolation, struggling to build and maintain your faith. We are here for you . Meet us in the Youth Center Room 1 on Monday, July 12th at 6:30 PM.

If you have any questions contact Ann @ 661-282-5889.



**APPLY NOW**



## Tuition Assistance Available

The Peter Anthony Catholic Education Fund provides tuition assistance to qualifying students for a Catholic education in Kern County. Since 2017, nearly 100 students have received resources in tuition assistance. Families must demonstrate a financial need and agree to make partial tuition payments. For details and access to an online application visit [www.kernfoundation.org](http://www.kernfoundation.org) or call Kern Community Foundation at 325-5346. Completed applications are due July 31, 2021.

## Summer Carnival And Pop-Up Craft Fair



**Location: 425 30th St.**

**Date: July 24th**

**Time: 9AM - 1PM**

**For More Information:**

**John Thompson (661) 369-6716**

**-or- Gabriel Lopez (661) 578-3298**

# Help WANTED

**USHERS NEEDED**  
**Looking for a great way to serve our Parish?**  
**Contact John Thompson for more information.**  
**661-369-6716**

# CURSILLO

The Cursillo Ministry meets every Monday beginning August 2nd in the Betenbaugh Room 7 PM - 8:30 PM.

## Legion of Mary

Meets every Wednesday at 5:00 PM in Conference Room A. New members are encouraged.



# St. Francis Parish News & Announcements

*GETTING TO KNOW YOU by Joi Bourne*

*Dear Fellow Parishioners,*

*Throughout this year, I will be writing a series of articles featuring one of our priests or deacon couples. It is my hope that as we resume our once thriving parish life, post-pandemic, we will all get to know each other better and become more involved in ministering to each other. Ever since moving to Bakersfield in 2004 and joining St. Francis of Assisi parish, Deacon Scotty and I have been impressed with its welcoming charisms of hospitality and openhearted fellowship. This past year and a half of being isolated is merely a hiccup in time. We can now open our doors, our hearts and our arms to welcome each other back. This series as well as a series on our diverse ministries will hopefully turn all our heart lights back on as we re-unite with our community and once again serve God and each other.*

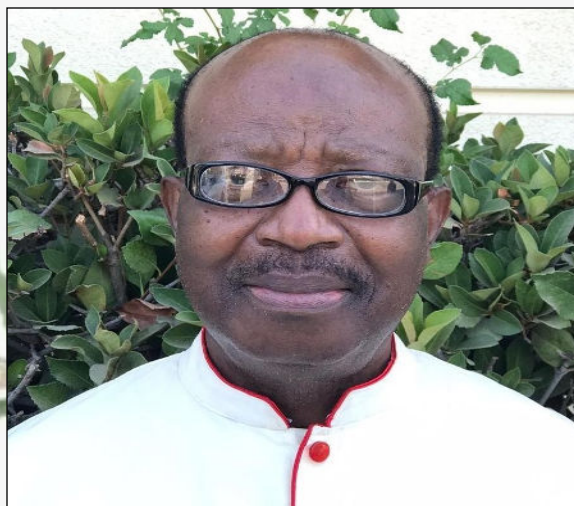
## **MSGR. NATHANIEL IKECHUKWU NDIOKWERE**

*It seems appropriate to write about Msgr. Nathaniel first since he is our most senior priest. Nathaniel was the 4<sup>th</sup> of 10 sons born into the Ndiokwere family. His father, Gabriel was chairman of the parish council and according to Msgr. was a very spiritual and humble man, who “played a great role in our family as regards Spiritual and Moral formation of all his sons. I cannot remember any night we did not recite the Rosary before going to bed.” Gabriel is the one who first encouraged Nathaniel to become a priest, who was ordained in 1977 in Rome.*

*Msgr. is enormously accomplished, having studied extensively in Nigeria, England and Italy, where he finished his seminary years in Rome. In fact, Msgr. was offered a scholarship to study comparative education in London. This course led him to travel to Israel, Russia, and Greece. The normal progression after his course of studies would have been to become a Bishop, but he preferred to continue his studies toward a master’s degree in Divinity and a Ph.D. in Biblical Theology. From there, he became a professor of Biblical Theology for 8 years in the Catholic University of Nigeria.*

*Msgr. is widely traveled: USA, England, Ireland, Greece, Italy, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Russia, Israel and India and he speaks 5 languages fluently. Also, he is a prolific writer having authored 17 books. The themes of the books vary: Theology, Politics, Nigerian history, Education and the Church, Languages (English and Latin). Some are philosophical in nature and he even wrote a novel for high school students. Msgr. is now nearing completion of 2 new books: My Simple Prayer Book (Catholic prayers) and My Simplified Catechism of the Catholic Church (the Catechism synthesized, simplified and summarized).*

*Msgr. Nathaniel has led an amazing life. He has much wisdom and experience to share. Fortunate for us, he seems to have a passion for helping the Catholic in the pew pray better and get to know our religion, and ultimately God, more intimately.*





# St. Francis Parish News & Announcements



## Sunday, July 4, 2021

6:45 am: + Marcelina Lopez Garcia

8:30 am: + Montao Noyola

10:30 am: + Josephine Del Papa

12:30 pm: + Carlos Enriquez Obando Cruz

5:00 pm: + Victor Damian Salgado Gonzalez

## Monday, July 5, 2021

6:30 am: + Rita Contreras

12:10 pm: + Deceased Lozano Family

## Tuesday, July 6, 2021

6:30 am: All Souls in Purgatory

12:10 pm: + Jesus Trejo Jr.

## Wednesday, July 7, 2021

6:30 am: Int. of Asencion Family

12:10 am: + Bob & Patty Collier

## Thursday, July 8, 2021

6:30 am: + Louise Riccomini Kalshan

12:10 pm: + Kathleen Antongiovanni

## Friday, July 9, 2021

6:30 am: + Louise Riccomini Kalshan

12:10 pm: + Deceased Archuleta Family

## Saturday, July 10, 2021

8:00 am: Int. of DeBondt/Serban Family

5:00 pm: + Gino Garibaldi

7:30 pm: + Bob & Patty Collier

## Marriage Banns

### July 2021

Cullen Chambers & Myka Peck

### August 2021

Mario Laveaga & Yesenia Ramirez

### September 2021

Paul Hidalgo & Ebony Vasquez

Oscar & Jessica Cortez

Aaron Ponce & Maria Garcia

## BAPTISM

Congratulations to all of those  
Baptized in June.

Melissa Salas Galvan, Zachariah Forrest, Aida Barba, Viannet Barba, Melody Bernal, Reggie Bernal, London Everett, Camila Medina, Madison Medina, Camila Segura, Aiden Molina, Daniel Molina, Melanie Molina, Analise Ortiz, Luca Aldrich, Siena Aldrich, Caleb Camarillo-Echeverria, Noah Camarillo-Echeverria, Vladimir Galvan Gallo, Julian Montoya, Eliana Ochoa, Elsie Ochoa, Richard Potter, Melissa Robles, Benjamin Rubio Torres, Damien Sanchez, Dominic Sandoval

*You are a child of God, you are wonderfully made,  
dearly loved and precious in his sight. ~ Psalm 139*

"Amen, amen, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. John 5:24

In memory of parishioners who have been given the gift of eternal life in the month of January 2020 with services through St. Francis Parish:

*Connie Dalton, James Boivin, Clemente Hernandez, John McKenna, Albert Goyenche, Oscar Olmos, Sue Flick, Silvia Gonzalez, Jesus Fierros, Jose Garcia, Bernardo Vega, Jose Cardenas, Yolanda Cardenas, Hadeel Audie, Sandra Rojas, Ruben Cortes, Jose Saravia, Maria Rodriguez, Adam Gallegos, Bing Metzger, Debbie Del Papa, Patricia Byrne*

The St. Francis Funeral Ministry comprises a group of volunteer parishioners who carry out a variety of tasks during funerals. If interested in being a part of this team, please contact Roylene See through the Parish Office.



# Last Month's Weekly Collections

April 11, 2021-  
April 17, 2021

Total: \$25,225.00

April 18, 2021-  
April 24, 2021

Total: \$20,284.00

April 25, 2021-  
May 1, 2021

Total: \$17,087.00

May 2, 2021 -  
May 8, 2021

Total: \$26,731.00

We Appreciate Your Donations!  
Donations can be mailed into the church office. 900 H Street, Bakersfield, CA 93304

*"Blessed are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance.*

*~ Luke 8:15 ~*

"WE HAVE BEEN CALLED  
TO HEAL WOUNDS, TO  
UNITE WHAT HAS FALLEN  
APART, AND TO BRING  
HOME THOSE WHO HAVE  
LOST THEIR WAY."



— ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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