

# The Franciscan

## St. Francis of Assisi Church

900 H. Street, Bakersfield, CA 93304

Office hours: M-Th 9AM–5PM & Friday 9AM–12PM

Phone: 661-327-4734 / [www.stfran.org](http://www.stfran.org)

Security for the Church: 661-201-2489



### Sunday, January 7, 2024 ~ The Epiphany of the Lord

#### 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

12:30 PM (Spanish)

5:00 PM (English)

##### Weekdays

6:30 AM (English)

12:10 PM (English)

##### Thursday Only

5:00 PM (Spanish)

##### 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

*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. Dr. Theophane N. Antony, Pastor

Rev. Stanley Stephen Amburose, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Anton J. Muthuneidalage, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Jude Okonkwo, Hospital Ministry

Rev. Pedro Cabral de Medeiros, Hospital Ministry

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

Deacon Joseph Lubatti

Deacon Henry Tran

Deacon Darren Caskey

Deacon Scotty Bourne, Ret. Detention Ministry

#### St. Francis Parish School

Joan Bouchard - Fresno Diocese, Administrator

Kelli Gruszka, Principal

Cindy School, Vice Principal

2516 Palm Street, Bakersfield, CA 93304

Phone: 661-326-7955/Fax: 661-752-5902

#### Administration

Sylvia Treanor, Parish Office Supervisor  
[strearor@stfran.org](mailto:strearor@stfran.org)

Sr. Jeena Soosai, Parish Secretary  
[jsoosai@stfran.org](mailto:jsoosai@stfran.org)

#### Accounting

Stella Garcia-Hernandez, Supervisor  
[sgarcia@stfran.org](mailto:sgarcia@stfran.org)

#### Parish Office

Sandra Galicia, Scheduler/Bulletin Editor  
[sgalicia@stfran.org](mailto:sgalicia@stfran.org)

Sonia Chagollan, Office Clerk  
[schagollan@stfran.org](mailto:schagollan@stfran.org)

#### Religious Education

Sr. Amal Grace, Director  
[agrace@stfran.org](mailto:agrace@stfran.org)

Frances Casas, Clerk  
[fcasas@stfran.org](mailto:fcasas@stfran.org)

#### Funerals

Roylene See, Coordinator  
[rsee@stfran.org](mailto:rsee@stfran.org)

#### Weddings

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

#### Music

Dr. Ángel Vazquez-Ramos, Director  
[avazquezramos@stfran.org](mailto:avazquezramos@stfran.org)

# St. Francis Parish Calendar & Upcoming Events

**Monday  
January 8**

**The Baptism of the Lord**

3:45PM Monday Night Dinner Parish Hall

5:00PM Benediction Mary's Chapel

5:30PM Basketball Practice SFS Youth Center Gym

6:00PM Cursillo Mtg YC Rm 2

6:00PM Adult Formation Class Conf Rm B&C

6:30PM First Holy Communion Class Reconciliations Church

**Tuesday  
January 9**

8:30AM R&R Bible Study Parish Hall

10:00AM SF Icon Guild Mtg YC Rms 1&2

1:00PM Altar Guild Mtg Parish Hall

5:00PM Benediction Mary's Chapel

6:00PM Prayer Group Mtg Mary's Chapel

7:00PM Counseling Grp Conf Rm C

**Wednesday  
January 10**

1:00PM Staff Mtg Conf Rm B

4:00PM Children's Choir Rehearsal Betenbaugh Rm

5:00PM Benediction Mary's Chapel

5:15PM Teen Choir Practice Betenbaugh Rm

5:30PM Basketball Practice SFS YC Gym

6:00PM Next Gen Bible Study Mtg YC Rms 1&2

6:30PM First Holy Communion Class Reconciliations

6:30PM Chorale Rehearsal Betenbaugh Rm

8:00PM Spanish Choir Practice Church

**Thursday  
January 11**

8:30AM Daughters of the King Bible Study Parish Hall

1:00PM Altar Guild Cleaning Sacristy & Sanctuary

2:00PM Rosary Makers Mtg YC Rms 1&2

5:00PM Benediction Mary's Chapel

6:00PM H.S. Youth Grp Conf Rm C

6:00PM Co-Ed Bible Study Conf Rm B

6:00PM K of C Mtg Betenbaugh Rm

6:00PM Ministry Mtg YC Rms 1&2

7:00PM Knights of Columbus Rosary Mary's Grotto

**Friday  
January 12**

5:00PM Benediction Mary's Chapel

7:00PM Pro-Life Rosary & Prayers Mary's Chapel

7:00PM Adult Confirmation Class Parish Hall

**Saturday  
January 13**

8:30AM Confessions Church/Chapel

9:00AM Catholic Men's Fellowship Breakfast YC Rms 1&2

10:00AM Secular Franciscan Conf Rm B

**Sunday  
January 14**  
**Happy Sunday!**



# St. Francis Priest Page

## Life lessons from the Wisemen

- ⇒ Leave your comfort zone: The wisemen left their comfort zone to seek Christ and they found Him.
- ⇒ Live without fear: No GPS, no big plans other than go see the newborn child of Bethlehem. They set forth with courage and determination. There is no success without risk. Victory favors the brave.
- ⇒ Be divergent thinkers: They stay open to new ideas. They were so creative and were open to many possible solutions.
- ⇒ When they got lost, they looked up to the sky, and discovered the star. Sometimes we get disoriented, we get lost, we feel surrounded by darkness. Let us lift up our eyes and see the star.
- ⇒ Let us adore Him as King (Gold), Priest (Frankincense) and the savior who would die for our sins (Myrrh).
- ⇒ They departed to their country by *another way* (Mt: 2:12). Every encounter with Christ must bring forth transformation of lives.

### Thank You

Our Christmas and New Year celebrations were fantastic. We wouldn't be able to do it without you. Thanks to our Priests and Deacons, Rev. Sisters, Saint Francis Staff, Finance council, Parish Pastoral council members, maintenance committee, The Altar Guild women, Ushers, Knights, the Vietnamese ministry, The Spanish ministry, and many wonderful volunteers. A special thanks to Barbara Wallace. My sincere thanks to all our parish families, I Hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Thanks for your generous support. I truly appreciate all your kindness. I hope that this new year brings you all the joy and success you deserve.

### Joke of the day:

You know what would have happened if there had been three wise WOMEN instead of three wise MEN? The three wise WOMEN would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the Baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and would have given practical gifts."

Wishing you a happy and prosperous new year 2024!  
Fr Theo



# St. Francis Parish News

## January Ministry Meeting

Upcoming Ministry Meeting will be **Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**, from **6:00PM – 7:00PM** in the **Youth Center meeting rooms**. Please ensure that your ministry is represented. If the leader can not make it, please appoint one of your members to be there for you. Your participation is important.

Please contact Deacon Henry Tran through the parish office for more information.



## Clergy Convocation

January 22 -25  
Please keep our clergy in prayer while they are away.

## Adoration

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is open every day this week in Mary's Chapel during the following hours:

Monday	11-13-2023	7am to 5pm
Tuesday	11-14-2023	7am to 6pm
Wednesday	11-15-2023	7am to 5pm
Thursday	11-16-2023	7am to 5pm
Friday	11-17-2023	7am to 5pm

Everyone is invited to spend some time with Our Lord Jesus. Call 661-204-2489 when the doors are locked.

We are currently looking for someone who can be a Monitor each Friday from 3pm –4pm.

We are hoping to expand adoration hours to 6pm each evening, Monday through Friday, as soon as possible. If you can commit to one hour of adoration each week from 5pm to 6pm, please contact Deacon Darren at 661-477-0822 with your day preference.



The Parish Office will be closed Monday, January 15, 2024

## Pancake Breakfast

After 6:45 AM, 8:30 AM,  
and 10:30 AM Masses  
In the Parish Hall

Join the Knights of Columbus  
Mgrs Ralph Belloumini  
Council 977 for a pancake  
breakfast as we come  
together to fellowship as a  
parish.

We'll be serving:  
Pancakes  
Eggs  
Sausage  
Coffee  
And Juice



\$10 per  
Plate  
January 7th



# St. Francis Announcements

## Altar Servers

We are working toward the goal of having five Altar servers at each Mass. Altar servers should be 9 years to 18 years old, have received their First Holy Communion and completed training.

Altar Server training for new and existing servers is held in the church on the third Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM. January 20th is the next scheduled training.

Thanks to our parishioners who donated to our Monday Night's Christmas dinner. We had a wonderful time. They enjoyed a hot meal including turkey and ham. We passed out groceries, blankets, and socks.

Our ministry cannot provide all these services without your help. We hope in this new year you will continue to support us. Our pantry is low in canned tuna, soups, Vienna sausages, applesauce, canned pinto beans, rice, oatmeal, and boxed cereals.

Thank you & God bless.

## SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

PLEASE COME JOIN US!  
MEETINGS ARE HELD THE  
2ND SATURDAY  
OF THE MONTH.

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
CONFERENCE ROOM B.  
ALL ARE WELCOME!



**Saturday, January 13, 2024 in the Youth Center Meeting Rooms.**

**We begin with Mass at 8AM in the church, followed by breakfast and fellowship.**

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT  
JOHN THOMPSON  
661-369-6715  
jrthompson977@gmail.com

**KERN CATHOLIC'S MEN'S Retreat**

OLPH CHURCH  
124 COLUMBUS ST.

Guest speaker  
**FATHER NATHAN**

**JANUARY 17TH & 18TH** | **6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM** | **TALKS & CONFESSION**

January 17th - "The Blessing of Being a Catholic"  
January 18th - "How to be a Catholic Leader"

Register at kerncatholic.com

**KERN CATHOLIC 6TH ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST**

**MARCH 20, 2024**

**DEFENDING THE EUCHARIST: YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**STEVE RAY "JERUSALEM JONES"**

PRODUCER OF THE CATHOLIC DVD SERIES THE FOOTPRINTS OF GOD: THE STORY OF SALVATION FROM ABRAHAM TO AUGUSTINE WHICH ARE FEATURED ON EWTN AND NETFLIX.

BEST SELLING AUTHOR OF NUMEROUS BOOKS INCLUDING CROSSING THE TIBER, THE STORY OF HIS CONVERSION TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

REGULAR GUEST ON CATHOLIC ANSWERS LIVE, AVE MARIA RADIO, RELEVANT RADIO, EWTN AND MANY OTHERS

STEVE AND HIS WIFE JANET HAVE GUIDED THOUSANDS OF PILGRIMS TO ISRAEL AND OTHER BIBLICAL LANDS.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**ONLINE REGISTRATION**  
**KERNCATHOLIC.COM**  
**OPENS JANUARY 20, 2024**

# St. Francis Parish Announcements

## Weekly Mass Intentions

Sunday, January 7, 2024

6:45 am: +Yanira Hernandez

8:30 am: +Tim Chapman

10:30 am: Int. DeBondt & Serban Families

12:30 pm: +Anthony Sandoval

5:00 pm: +Lawrence Renzi

Monday, January 8, 2024

6:30 am: +Art Paredes

12:10 pm: +Patricia Smith

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

6:30 am: Raymond & Doris Fay Martinez

12:10 pm: +Lucy Banducci

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

6:30 am: +All Souls in Purgatory

12:10 pm: +Jeff Bertolucci

Thursday, January 11, 2024

6:30 am: +Mercedes Zayas

12:10 pm: +Jeff Bertolucci

5:00 pm: +Armando Aparacio

Friday, January 12, 2024

6:30 am: +Paul Anthony Calderon

12:10 pm: +Lozano Family

Saturday, January 13, 2024

8:00 am: +Marjorie Buttke

5:00 pm: +Timothy Paul Chapman

7:30 pm: +All Souls

## Marriage Banns

December 2023

Manuel Carrillo & Jessica Crites

February 2023

Angel Rojas and Gabriela Perez Delgadillo

Daniel Root and Christine Etcheverry

## Sanctuary Lamps

Isabelle Church & Family, Michael France, Walt Widhalm, Prayers for the living loved ones, relatives, friends & pets of Elsa & Zsa & Prayers for the departed loved ones, relatives & friends of Elsa & Zsa.

## Funeral Ministry

With the Christmas joy still in us we begin a New Year and celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, which is followed by Epiphany Sunday. Epiphany commemorates the Magi's visit to the baby Jesus and the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. Christmas is now over, and we move into a joyful period of ordinary time. Wishing all a blessed and Happy 2024 !

In memory of parishioners who have been given the gift of eternal life in the month of December 2023 with services through St Francis:

*Olga Garzelli , Miguel 'Sergio' Angel Lopez, Sylvia Estrada Soto , Isabella Burdick, Nery Larroque Ornelas, Theodore 'Ted' Paul Armijo III, Hermila Garcia, Sharon Ann Francis, Antonio Alaerez Cabral, Maria Anna Romanini, John Munos ,Vicky Joan Marmolejo, Mario John Buoni , Myrna Garza , Jose de Jesus Soto, Antonio Jesus Sepulveda, Diane Marie Lewarton Eric Banducci, Baby Pedro Nathaniel Rubalcada ,Bonifacio Villalobos*

Our funeral team wishes to accompany those who are grieving and to show the light of Jesus Christ risen to those whose hearts are broken. Our Parish embraces all who are mourning and gives direction for all funeral services. We give thanks to God for the deceased's life and hold family and friends close in prayer as they travel through a most difficult time. Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

If anyone needs information or help planning a funeral service, please contact Roylene through the parish office on ext. 123.

# Last Month's Weekly Collections

December 3, 2023-  
December 9, 2023

Total: \$12,030.00

December 10, 2023-  
December 16, 2023

Total: \$11,642.00

December 17, 2023  
December 23, 2023

Total: \$11,856.00

December 24, 2023-  
December 30, 2023

Total: \$11,962.00

Donations can be mailed into the church office. 900 H Street, Bakersfield, CA 93304, or you can use the QR Code for easy giving.

2nd Collections for January 2024  
2/7 Building Fund, 2/14 Music Ministry, 2/21 Altar Flowers,  
2/28 Church in Latin America



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