



NATIONAL SHRINE OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

SERVED BY THE CAPUCHIN FRANCISCANS

Very Reverend John De La Riva, O.F.M. Cap., Rector

MOST REVEREND SALVATORE J. CORDILEONE, J.C.D.

ARCHBISHOP OF SAN FRANCISCO

December 22, 2019

Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."*



MASS TIMES

MONDAY — SATURDAY:

12:15 PM

SUNDAY: 11:00 AM

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 PM

CONFESSIONS

MONDAY—SATURDAY:

11:00 AM—12:00 Noon

WEDNESDAY:

5:30 PM—6:30 PM

Also by appointment

NATIONAL SHRINE HOURS

HISTORIC CHURCH: 10:00^{AM} - 5:00^{PM} MONDAY - SATURDAY

10:00^{AM} - 2:00^{PM} SUNDAY

OPEN CERTAIN HOLIDAYS

PORZIUNCOLA CHAPEL: 10:00^{AM} - 4:00^{PM} WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY

10:00^{AM} - 2:00^{PM} SUNDAY

SATURDAYS IN THE PORZIUNCOLA CHAPEL:

HOLY ROSARY SODALITY AT 2:30^{PM} & CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY AT 3:00^{PM}

FIRST SATURDAYS IN THE HISTORIC CHURCH

ST. PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP 10^{AM}—1^{PM}

EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT 10:50^{AM}—12^{PM}

Marriages at the Shrine * By special permission • All inquiries: Please contact the Shrine office for Rector's initial assessment • Note: Arrangements at least six months in advance

Baptism • Contact the Shrine office for details

Church & Office: 610 Vallejo Street (at Columbus) San Francisco, CA 94133

Office: (415) 986-4557 **Hours:** Mon. - Fri. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Email: info@shrinesf.org **Website:** ShrineSF.org



ELEVATOR ACCESS: Please ask the Rector or one of our Shrine volunteers if you need assistance with our Main Church elevator, or automatic door for the Porziuncola Nuova chapel.

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading — You will be given this sign: The virgin shall conceive and bear a son (*Isaiah 7:10-14*).

Psalm — Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory (*Psalm 24*).

Second Reading — God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (*Romans 1:1-7*).

Gospel — The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins (*Matthew 1:18-24*).

DAILY MASS READINGS

- Monday:** *St. John of Kanty*
Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
- Tuesday:** *Vigil of Christmas*
Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29;
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
- Wednesday:** *The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)*
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6;
Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
- Thursday:** *St. Stephen, Martyr*
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab,
16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
- Friday:** *St. John, Apostle*
1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Saturday:** *The Holy Innocents*
1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

The Incarnation of Jesus Christ

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

461 Taking up St. John's expression, "The Word became flesh", the Church calls "**Incarnation**" the fact that the **Son of God assumed a human nature** in order to accomplish our salvation in it. In a hymn cited by St. Paul, the Church sings the mystery of the Incarnation:



Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

462 The Letter to the Hebrews refers to the same mystery:

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, Lo, I have come to do your will, O God."

463 Belief in the true Incarnation of the Son of God is the distinctive sign of Christian faith: "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God." Such is the joyous conviction of the Church from her beginning whenever she sings "the mystery of our religion": "He was manifested in the flesh."

Mass Intentions — DECEMBER 22 to 28

- Sunday 11:00 am † Norma Ferrari Flanagan
Monday 12:15 pm Greg Mariani (*Intention*)
Tuesday 7:30 pm † James E. Flanagan
Wednesday 11:00 am Noel Tan (*Birthday*)
Thursday Shrine CLOSED—No Mass
Friday 12:15 pm Noeline Tan (*Birthday*)
Saturday 12:15 pm † Samuel & Mary Rose Mantione



NATIONAL SHRINE OF
SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI



Please come and enjoy the Shrine's public Nativity display at the front entry to the historic church from the afternoon of Sunday, Dec. 8 through Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020.

Sunday, December 22
Holiday Concert: **7:00 PM** "Praise & Glorify"

Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve
Christmas Vigil Mass: **7:30PM**

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day
Mass: **11:00AM**
Shrine will close following conclusion of Mass.

Thursday, December 26
The Shrine church, chapel & office will be CLOSED.
There will be no Mass or Confessions.

Tuesday, December 31 - New Year's Eve
VIGIL FOR PEACE
Confessions: **6PM to 7PM**
Mass: **7:15PM**
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 8PM
(Benediction at 12 Midnight)
Peace Prayer Blessing
"To the City and to the World" at **12:15AM**

Wednesday, January 1, 2020 New Year's Day
The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation
Mass: **11:00AM**
Shrine closes immediately after Mass.

Blessing of St. Francis of Assisi

"God bless you and keep you. May God smile on you, and be merciful to you; May God turn his regard towards you and give you peace. May God bless you."

The Capuchins

RECTOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Joyous greetings to you, on behalf of the Capuchin Franciscans and all the staff of the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi.

“May the Almighty and merciful God, by whose grace you have placed your faith in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son and yearn for his coming again, sanctify you by the radiance of Christ’s Advent and enrich you with his blessing”

- Introductory petition of Advent Solemn Blessing.

As we enter the Fourth week of Advent and soon come to the Solemnities of Christmas, it is my greatest desire and prayer for you and I, that we more fully reap the benefice of God’s sanctifying grace so that enriched by such blessing we will radiate Christ’s Advent love and peace to our world.

With grateful hearts, the Capuchin Franciscan friars of the Shrine keep you in their daily prayers and Masses.

Please keep in your prayers the welfare of the Nat’l. Shrine, the Capuchin Friars, and the Pilgrims who visit the Shrine.

We invite you to make your pilgrim way to the “holy sanctuary” of this peaceful place of quiet and prayer.

Know that a warm welcome always awaits you. May all Blessings and Peace of the Christ Child be upon you and your families during this Christmas season.

**Sincerely,
Fr. John De La Riva, OFM Cap.**

Rector of the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi



Reflections on the Wisdom from St. Francis

by Fr. Bobby

“I wish to enact the memory of the babe who was born in Bethlehem, to see the discomfort of his infant needs, how he lay in a manger and rested on the hay, with an ox and an ass standing by.” Thomas of Celano, Life of St. Francis, 84.



Many people know that St. Francis is associated with the practice of the Christmas crib or crèche. He wanted a nativity scene to be set up in a cave outside the tiny mountain town of Greccio, to be a meditation on the reality of the Incarnation—that Jesus truly took on our human condition. So the Christmas Mass he arranged was held at midnight, so the people could feel the cold of the night; it was sung in a cave that was small and cramped. Those gathered could feel the roughness of that space and smell the odors from the animals. Francis himself preached about these things, and how much love God must have, if he was willing to put up with such difficulties for our salvation! The crèche is more than a work of art or a comforting symbol: it is a call to praise God with our hearts and minds, and also with our bodies. The smells and sounds of this time of year are an invitation to return with St. Francis to that small stable in Bethlehem, to adore with Mary and Joseph the Word made Flesh as a small child. And St. Francis knew there was only one way to respond to such amazing love: by loving others, comforting and reaching out to them, despite the discomforts. Francis would say that by doing that, we are truly the faithful, made by the Spirit into the image of the Babe of Bethlehem. May the Lord bless and keep you this Christmas and always!

Fr. Robert Barbato, OFM Cap. is the pastor of Old Mission Santa Inés in Solvang, CA.



Order of Friars Minor Capuchins (O.F.M. Cap.)

www.olacapuchins.org

**Western Province of
Capuchin Franciscans**



**Come
AND
See**

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Jan. 24-26 2020

1534 Arch Street
Berkeley, CA
94708

**Discernment Weekend for men
who feel called to Religious Life
Walk for Life in SF included!!!!
Contact us & Sign up!!!!**



Pope Francis: 50 years of priesthood serving God and his people

By Sergio Centofanti, *Vatican News*, December 13, 2019

December 13th marked the 50th anniversary of Pope Francis' ordination to the priesthood. Vatican News celebrates this milestone recalling some of Pope's reflections regarding priests and the priesthood.

On 13 December 1969, just four days before his 33rd birthday, Jorge Mario Bergoglio was ordained a priest. His vocation dates back to 21 September 1953, the Feast of St. Matthew, the tax collector converted by Jesus: it was during a confession that day, that the future Pope had a profound experience of God's mercy.



The priest and mercy

Divine Mercy has characterized his entire priestly life. Pope Francis speaks of priests as quietly leaving everything to engage in the daily life of communities, giving others their own lives, moved, like Jesus, when he sees people exhausted and "like sheep without a shepherd".

Addressing parish priests in Rome on 6 March 2014, the Pope said: "In the image of the Good Shepherd, the priest is a man of mercy and compassion, close to his people and a servant to all... Whoever is wounded in life, in whatever way, can find in him attention and a sympathetic ear.... Wounds need to be treated... We priests must be there, close to these people. Mercy first means treating the wounds".

The priest and the confessional

The priest plays an important part of his service to God and His people in the confessional, where he can become an expression of God's mercy.

Addressing parish priests in Rome on 6 March 2014, Pope Francis said: "It is normal that there be differences in the style of confessors, but these differences cannot regard the essential, that is, sound moral doctrine and mercy. Neither the laxist nor the rigorist bears witness to Jesus Christ, for neither the one nor the other takes care of the person he encounters. The rigorist washes his hands of them: in fact, he nails the person to the law, understood in a cold and rigid way; and the laxist also washes his hands of them: he is only apparently merciful, but in reality he does not take seriously the problems of that conscience, by minimizing the sin. True mercy takes the person into one's care, listens to them attentively, approaches the situation with respect and truth, and accompanies them on the journey of reconciliation".

The priest and the Eucharist

Pope Francis describes the priest as a decentralized man, because at the center of his life there is not him but Christ. In his homily during the Jubilee for Priests on 3 June 2016, he said: "In the Eucharistic celebration we rediscover each day our identity as shepherds. In every Mass, may we truly make our own Christ's words: 'This is my Body, which is given up for you'. This is the meaning of our life: with these words, in a real way we can daily renew the promises we made at our priestly ordination".

Because Women Deserve Better than Abortion.[®]

WALK for LIFE WEST COAST 2020

16TH ANNUAL

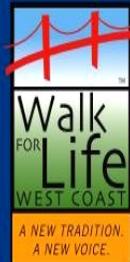


Walk for Life West Coast

Abortion HURTS Women

Saturday, January 25, 2020 • Civic Center Plaza • San Francisco

Rally: 12:30PM
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
Info Faire: 11:00AM
Saturday, January 25, 2020



Rally starts at Civic Center Plaza, walking down Market Street (2 miles). Ends at Embarcadero Plaza/Ferry Building.
BART stations at both locations. Ample parking.



WalkforLifeWC.com

Register and information:

(415) 658 - 1793

email: info@WalkForLifeWC.com

Any and all signs, posters, fliers, pamphlets, booklets, etc. must be submitted to the Rector for review, possible edit or revision, and necessary authorization before the desired materials can be properly posted, displayed or distributed on the properties of the *National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi. Furthermore, any and all Solicitation, petition signing, and promotion of any and all entities outside of the Nat'l. Shrine itself is prohibited without prior approval of the Shrine Rector. It is also Shrine Policy that the removal, altering, and or discarding of any and all approved signage, posters, pamphlets, booklets, etc. will be by Shrine Rector authorization only. Any and all materials that do not abide by this Policy of the Rector: Fr. John De La Riva, OFM Cap., will be removed and confiscated.

*Please note: The St. Francis Church, the Porziuncola Nuova Chapel, and the Rectory residence together constitute the properties of the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi.