



NATIONAL SHRINE OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI



SERVED BY THE CAPUCHIN FRANCISCANS

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

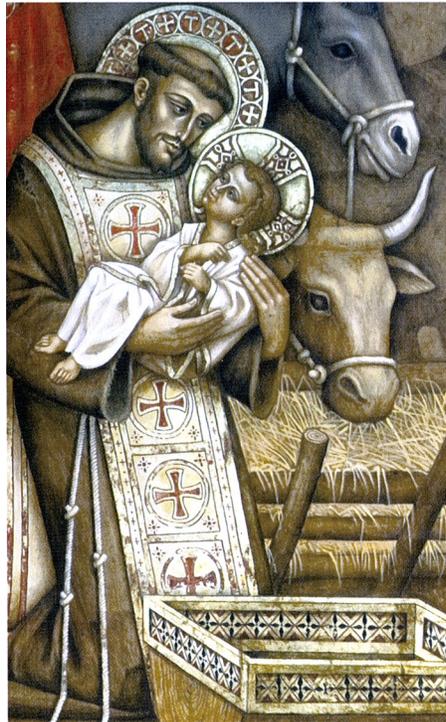
**MOST REVEREND SALVATORE J. CORDILEONE, J.C.D.
ARCHBISHOP OF SAN FRANCISCO**

December 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said,
"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

— *Lk 1:41-42*



MASS TIMES

MONDAY — SATURDAY:
12:15 PM

SUNDAY: 11:00 AM

CONFESSIONS

MONDAY—SATURDAY:
11:00 AM—12:00 Noon

Also by appointment

NATIONAL SHRINE HOURS

**HISTORIC CHURCH: 10:00AM - 5:00PM MONDAY - SATURDAY
10:00AM - 2:00PM SUNDAY**

**PORZIUNCOLA CHAPEL: 10:00AM - 4:00PM MONDAY - SATURDAY
10:00AM - 2:00PM SUNDAY**

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.

Mass Intentions — DECEMBER 23 to 29

Sunday	11:00 am	† Thanh Phan
Monday	12:15 pm	† Kan Tai Sze
	7:30 pm	Noeline Oh (<i>Birthday</i>)
Tuesday	11:00 am	Noel Tan (<i>Birthday</i>)
Wednesday	12:15 pm	NO MASS—Shrine closure
Thursday	12:15 pm	† James Flanagan
Friday	12:15 pm	† Anne Gee
Saturday	12:15 pm	Elizabeth Reilly (<i>Intention</i>)

SHRINE OFFICE CLOSURES

Please note these dates when the office will be unavailable for the holidays and staff time-off:

- Tuesday, December 25 through Friday, Dec. 28
- Tuesday, January 1, 2019

Mass intentions can be made online. All other matters will be addressed on Jan. 2, 2019.

National Shrine of
Saint Francis of Assisi



"I bring you good news of great joy for all people.
For this day in the city of David there has been born to you a Savior
who is Christ, the Lord."

- "You will find an infant wrapped in
swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." Lk. 2:10-12



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

*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, O.F.M. Cap.
Fr. John De La Riva, O.F.M. Cap.
Shrine Rector*



NATIONAL SHRINE OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Please come to enjoy the Shrine's **public Nativity Display** at the front entry
to the historic church through Sunday, January 6, 2019.

Concerts:

Sunday, December 23 at **6:30PM**—Schola Chorale

Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve:

Christmas Vigil Mass at **7:30PM**

Tuesday, December 25 Christmas Day:

Mass at **11:00AM**

Wednesday, December 26:

The Shrine church, chapel and office will be CLOSED.

There will be no Mass or Confessions.

Monday, December 31, New Year's Eve— VIGIL FOR PEACE

Confessions from **6PM to 7PM**

Mass at **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**

Tuesday, January 1, 2019 New Year's Day

The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Mass at **11:00AM**



ST. MICHAEL PRAYER

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle. Be our
defense against the wickedness
and snares of the Devil. May
God rebuke him, we humbly
pray, and do thou, O Prince
of the heavenly hosts, by the
power of God, thrust into hell
Satan, and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.

Recited daily following Mass.

Pax et Bonum



Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land

"Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you news of great joy..."

Christmas message of Fr. Francesco Patton, OFM- Custos of the Holy Land



We are in Bethlehem at the Shepherds' Field, the place where, during the night in which Jesus was born, the shepherds were keeping watch and guarding their flocks. Luke the evangelist tells us that when Mary gave birth to Jesus, these shepherds were precisely the first persons who received the good news of His birth.

An angel appeared to them, a great light shone around them, and they were afraid. But the messenger of God reassured them: «Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger» (Lk 2,10-12).

On that night of the first Christmas, the darkness in which the shepherds and the inhabitants of Bethlehem lived was enlightened by the birth of the Child Jesus. Even today we still need to let ourselves be enlightened by the birth of this Child, Who is the Son of God and our Saviour. How many people, even today, live surrounded by darkness like the shepherds who kept watch in this field two thousand years ago. Our brothers and sisters in Syria and in Yemen, as in many other Countries of the world, have been living for many years in the darkness of bloody conflicts, which transform millions of people into homeless people, into refugees who have been uprooted from their own family and from their own culture, who have been expelled from their own country and often find it impossible to be welcomed in a new land. Many others of our brethren in humanity live in the darkness caused by economical and ecological crises, which force entire populations to their knees often obliging them to emigrate. For them too, the experience of Joseph, Mary and the Child repeats itself: there is no place for them anywhere. At the most, they can find shelter under a tent.

There are those who carry darkness within them, a darkness which is often the fruit of having suffered violence. At other times it is the fruit of having made the wrong choices. Still others are in darkness because they are incapable of accepting some painful experience in life.

Lastly there is the darkness of sin, of being far from God, of wanting to live without Him or to live as if He does not exist. This kind of darkness soon transforms itself into the refusal of brother or sister, of his or her right to exist, of the recognition of his or her dignity as a human person from the very first moment of conception to the last breath that the Creator Himself gives. This is the darkness that is common amongst people living in every corner of the world. This darkness, at least in part, is to be found within each and every one of us.

The Child Jesus has not come only to enlighten in a solemn way the night of those shepherds here in Bethlehem, a town which, two thousand years ago, was located in the periphery of all peripheries. The Child Jesus continues to enlighten the night of each and every one of us and indeed the entire human race. May the light of the Child of Bethlehem enter into the conscience and existence of each and every one of us, in our families and in our communities; may His light shine upon all people and upon the faithful of every religion who, are desiring to know Him, and are searching for Him even perhaps grasping at such a wish.

May He enlighten the conscience of those who govern the nations and the economy, and may He help them to discover that to govern means to take care of the small, fragile, and those in need of guidance.

May the Child of Bethlehem enlighten the actions of those who work in the fields of culture and communication, so that they may spread the message of goodwill.

A Happy Christmas to all from the Shepherds Field situated here close to Bethlehem.

A Happy Christmas from the place of the first announcement of the Saviour's birth.

A Happy Christmas from the place in which the angels have sung: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth for those He favours."

A Happy Christmas to each and every one of you, to your families and to your communities.



A 14-point silver star in the Grotto of the Nativity, Bethlehem marks the traditional spot of the birth of Christ

*Custodia.org
Dec. 21, 2018*

The Capuchins

Reflections on the Wisdom from St. Francis

by Fr. Bobby

"I wish to enact the memory of that babe who was born in Bethlehem. To see as much as is possible with my bodily eyes the discomfort of his infant needs, how he lay in a manger and how, with an ox and an ass standing by, he rested on the hay." (From the Life of St. Francis by Thomas of Celano)

As most people know, St. Francis is credited with creating one of the earliest creches, the representation of the birthplace of Jesus in Bethlehem. It happened at Greccio, a town between Rome and Assisi. Francis found a cave and had things prepared. It's important to remember that Francis did not want to create a warm and fuzzy scene, but wanted those who came to experience the cold, the roughness, and even the smell of the animals. These were the things Jesus endured, with his mother Mary and St. Joseph, when he came into our world. How much love must have motivated such an act of gracious mercy! That's what Francis celebrated on Christmas at midnight. God bless and keep you for Christmas and always!



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

Live Nativity!

Sunday, December 23rd
5 – 7 pm
Special Performance:
6:30 pm • Schola Chorale

Outdoor presentation in front of the National Shrine historic church:
610 Vallejo Street

The 6:30pm concert will be held inside the church

Experience THE Nativity

WALK FOR LIFE WEST COAST

Come along with the community of the Nat'l Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi as it joins the greater Archdiocese of San Francisco for the annual "Walk for Life—West Coast".

Saturday, January 26, 2019

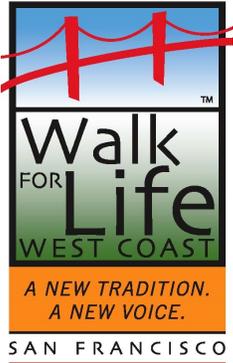
Holy Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Mary: 9:30AM

Civic Center Plaza Rally: 12:30PM

Walk down Market Street begins: 1:30PM

Please note the Shrine hours on this day:

- ◆ Historic church and Porziuncola will be **CLOSED** until **3:00pm**. There will be no regularly scheduled Mass or Confessions.
- ◆ There will be the celebration of the **Traditional Latin Mass** at **5:15PM** in the historic church.



ASSISI PARDON

PORZIUNCULA PARDON is always available under the conditions the Catholic Church has stipulated.

The conditions for receiving the Porziuncula Pardon are:

To receive the Porziuncula Indulgence, one must receive sacramental absolution and receive Holy Communion at Mass. Additionally, one must visit a church where one prays at least the Creed and an Our Father for the intentions of the Pope. Additionally, one must be completely free of any attachment to sin; if this condition is not met, the indulgence is partial rather than plenary.

At the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi, the Pardon of Assisi may be received on October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (in the Shrine Church); on any two days of one's own choosing during the year (one day in the Church and one day in the Porziuncula Nuova); and as often as one makes a formal pilgrimage as part of a group to the Shrine Church or to the Porziuncula Nuova. (One may receive a plenary indulgence only once a day and it may be applied to oneself or to the soul of one of the faithfully departed.)

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 Portiuncula Nuova Chapel, and the Rectory residence together constitute the properties of the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi.