

THE MESSENGER

THE MISSION OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI ANGLICAN CHURCH
IS TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION
IN JESUS CHRIST THROUGH SACRED WORSHIP,
SERIOUS DISCIPLESHIP, AND SELFLESS SERVICE

January 2020

A Community Centered on Jesus

By Fr Joshua Drake

I have long had a special place in my heart for the Nativity scene. It was always a wonderful icon and image of the incarnation.



However, last year the Nativity took on new meaning for my wife and me as we took part in *Bethlehem AD*, an annual “living Nativity” that takes place in Silicon Valley. A friend of ours helps organize it, and Caleb was born at the perfect time to be baby Jesus in the living Nativity. Thus we were asked to be the Holy Family on one of the three nights of the performance.

I did not realize how big of a production it was until we arrived the night of the event. It took hundreds of people to put on this performance—not just those dressed as shepherds or wise

men or angels, but also those who handled parking, lighting, food, wardrobe, and directed the whole event.



With so many people it could have been chaos, but it wasn't. It ran smoothly because everybody knew their role, and that allowed things to run smoothly. Each person knew exactly what they were doing, what was expected from them, and who to talk to if they had a problem.

It was a beautiful thing to behold. As I saw pictures from the event later, I was now aware of all that went into the “living” Nativity; and I was greatly moved because I saw all these people working together to create a beautiful scene with Jesus at the center.

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St Francis of Assisi Anglican Church

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Sunday Mass: 10:00 a.m.

Deacon's Corner



Shalom,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! Wow, here it is a new year already, where did the time

go? Along with the New Year coming, there always seems to be some New Year's resolution about what you wish to accomplish in the upcoming year. People think of losing weight, getting fit, or they want to change habits like drink less coffee or soda. They almost always focus on the physical—but what about the spiritual?

The final lesson in our Ephesians Bible study last month was about putting on the armor of God, the *whole* armor of God! We talked about what each piece of armor means spiritually. Have you ever thought of the significance of putting on the armor of God and what Paul means by this? The six main pieces of armor are the shoes, belt, breastplate, helmet, shield, and sword. Let us take a look at how they protect us spiritually and why each piece is vital in your spiritual battle.

Paul starts off talking about girding ourselves with the *Belt of Truth*. The belt encircles and holds the armor together, just like the truth of our Lord Jesus girds us and gives us a solid foundation in our faith from which to proclaim the good news.

Next is the breastplate which protects the vital organs like the heart. Wearing the *Breastplate of Righteousness* protects our hearts from the impure feelings that the world tries to tempt us with.

Now our feet are to be shod with the *Gospel of Peace*. In Roman times soldiers had metal studs on the soles of their shoes so they wouldn't slip or slide, allowing them to stand strong in battle. So if our feet are shod with the Gospel of peace, we can follow Jesus while standing firm in our faith, not slipping but ever advancing the good news of Jesus.



The shield helps deflect the blows of the enemy, so here we are to put on the *Shield of Faith* which stops the flaming darts of the devil. It allows us to block what the devil and the world throw at us.

The helmet protects the head of the soldier. We are to put on the *Helmet of Salvation* to keep our mind focused on our Lord and Savior Jesus, thus not allowing the devil or the world to influence us, or to get inside our heads to discourage us in our faith to follow Jesus.

Lastly Paul talks about the *Sword of the Spirit* which is the Word of God. The sword can be both a defensive weapon *and* an offensive weapon with which to strike blows. In Ephesians Paul links it to prayer. When we take up the Sword of the Spirit we can not only deflect an attack: by praying we can also put the attacker on the defensive as we wield the Word of God in the proper way.

In order to put on the whole armor of God we must train properly on how to use all the pieces together: by learning all we can about God! We do this through worship, prayer, listening, and Bible study. Which brings me to my next and final point.

Starting this month I will be conducting a **Bible study class on the book of Daniel: *Daniel—Spiritual Living in a Secular World***. Daniel not only put on the whole armor of God but we will see through the study what it looks like when one puts this armor on!

And in today's world we need to start putting the armor on regularly and daily. I admit that I have not always donned the full armor of God myself, and I hope that with the Bible study I will start doing so more and more!

We plan to meet at Panera Bread in Lodi every other week on Thursdays (see p. 4), although the day and frequency could change, so please pay attention to the Sunday announcements and the bulletin. **Class starts on January 9 at 5:30 p.m.** I hope that you will join me as we work to become the disciples that Jesus wishes us to be.

May the peace of the Lord be always with you!

—Deacon Jeff Stugelmeyer ♦



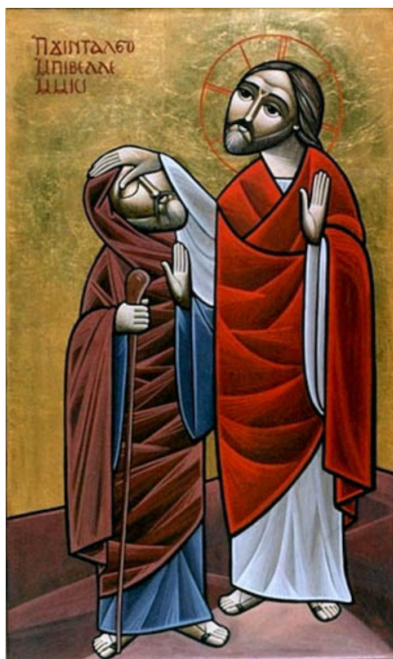
The new 2019 Book of Common Prayer — Now available for purchase from Anglican Liturgy Press.

<http://bcp2019.anglicanchurch.net/index.php/purchase/>



Sacred Worship

Sundays	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist @ St Francis of Assisi Church
First Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist @ St Francis of Assisi Church
Healing Service	Varies	Announced via email & Sunday bulletins



In-Home Healing Services

If you or someone you know need healing but cannot physically make it to the church, we can bring the Sacrament to you. **All are welcome** to come and share in the healing service as the body of Christ. Time and place will be announced in the Sunday bulletin or via e-mail. ♦



Ooops!

Your newbie Anglican editor temporarily elevated Fr. Joshua to the rank of Bishop by inadvertently placing a “+” before his name in the last two editions of The Messenger. Bishops get a cross *before* their names, priests *after*. My apologies for the error and many thanks to the eagle-eyed parishioner who caught it. —GK

First Saturday Mass January 4 at 10:00 a.m.

Holy Communion on the first Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. is open for all, but it is especially an opportunity to gather and praise God before we “Go and make disciples” in the different ministries St Francis Church offers in our community (p. 5). ♦



Thank You, Good and Faithful Servant!

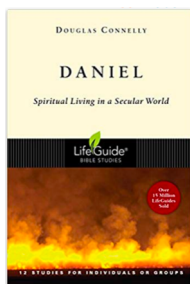
After 14 years of devoted service, our beloved Parish Administrator, Kim Combs, is retiring at the end of this month.

Words cannot express our gratitude for all her tireless effort and sacrificial service, especially during our transition years from St John’s Episcopal to St John’s Anglican to finally St Francis of Assisi Anglican Church, as well as serving under multiple rectors through the years.



She is looking forward to spending more time with her family, especially her grandson. Please join us in praying for a smooth transition into retirement and all that God has in store for Kim. ♦

Serious Discipleship



Lodi Bible Study on the Book of Daniel

The Bible study led by Deacon Jeff Stugelmeyer resumes on January 9 to begin our study of *Daniel: Spiritual Living in a Secular World* by Douglas Connelly (\$7.99 on Amazon). We meet on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. at Panera Bread in Lodi, 2533 W. Kettleman Lane. ♦

Why not host a Bible Fellowship in your neighborhood?

No special training is necessary! It's very low key but so rewarding. You simply provide a place, invite your friends and neighbors, have a potluck, spend time talking about the Sunday sermon or do a book study (it's up to you and your group), maybe sing a couple of songs, and close with reading and praying Compline together (free Daily Office booklets are provided to you). Talk to Fr. Joshua to find out more! ♦

Tracy Home Fellowship

Mike Finney holds a monthly Bible study at his home in Tracy. The next get-together is **Sunday, January 19 at 5:00 p.m.** Join anytime! You can contact him at mikeandfresca@yahoo.com for more info and his address. ♦



Scripture of the Month

Date	Old Testament	New Testament
Jan 5	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 84	Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 2:1-12
Jan 12	Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 89:1-29	Acts 10:34-38 Matthew 3:13-17
Jan 19	Exodus 12:21-28 Psalm 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42
Jan 26	Amos 3:1-11 Psalm 139:1-8	1 Cor. 1:10-17 Matthew 4:12-22

From 2019 Book of Common Prayer: Sunday, Holy Day, and Commemoration Lectionary, Year A

We Mourn With You

The Family of Colleen Bryant, 12/13/19



Dorothy Craig - Ray, January 6

Samantha Towne - Eunice, January 12

Alberta Rodriguez - Ray, January 13

Kirby Robinson - Sally, January 16

Rick Dunn - Mother, January 17

Nancy Blaylock - Mildred, January 17

Eric Fosgate - Corinne Doyle, January 22

Aline D'Eraso & Elinore Ceballos

- Alberto D'Eraso, January 29

Jackie Bowers - Dick Mallet, January 31

We're Praying For...

Our Homebound: Isabel, Erlinda, Luciana, Sandra, Gloria, Beatriz, Jane, Marvin, Kathy, Jane, Claude, and Barbara. ♦

December Altar Flower Donations

12/5 The Finney Family in memory of Fred and Margaret Finney

Selfless Service

Homeless Women's Ministry

**Every First Saturday of Each Month
After the 10:00 a.m. Service**

The Homeless Women's Outreach Ministry distributes toiletries and personal necessities to women in need. Donations of travel-sized toiletries are especially needed. We give out 24 bags of personal hygiene items every month! Please see Cat Vaughn for more information. ♦

Feeding the Homeless with Deacon Jeff

**Every 1st Saturday
11:00 a.m. near
the DMV Office**

See Deacon Jeff for info.
Come be Christ's hands
and feet for your
neighbors in need! ♦



Cont'd from page 1

This is my hope for us as a parish: that we can all work together in our unique roles and gifting to create a community which centers upon and puts the focus on Jesus.

In the new year we as a parish are going to be leaning into what this may look like—to empower the people of the parish to be part of an entire system which is operating with the shared goal of exalting Christ. This will include creating systems and on-ramps for new volunteers for our existing ministries, helping define and support the current volunteer roles, and also make sure we are expanding ministry into the areas that God is leading us. It will also include feedback loops and ways for people to more clearly communicate and express when they need help, or when they need specific support and pastoral care.

We have been in a season of growth as a parish, and I want to make sure that we allow our growth to go deep and for everyone in our parish to be empowered to walk in the good works God has ordained for us to walk in. And as your priest I am excited to walk alongside you in this journey. ♦

Peace be with you,

Fr. Joshua+



Shut-in Outreach

St Francis Church extends the body of Christ to our homebound by sending cards each month. They are available for you to sign on the table under the Welcome sign.

Please take a moment and sign them each week. Our shut-ins are so grateful and feel part of our parish with this simple gesture. ♦

Hospitality Welcomes Your Donations

St Francis folks love to eat and fellowship together after Sunday mass! Our "famous" coffee hour depends on your generous contributions, whether it's something to eat, donations of coffee, tea, or maybe chocolate milk for the kids, or even a tip in the donation basket. Feel free to bring goodies to share as the Spirit leads you, even if it's not a Potluck (fifth) Sunday. Questions? See Cat Vaughn. Thank you so much! ♦

Get Involved

Shepherd's Love

By Agnes Olmsted

On Sunday, December 8, St Francis Church was blessed to have Rick and April Dobbs share their inspiring story of beginning the orphanage in Kabale, Uganda. After the service we watched a brief video of the children at Twinomujuni (which means "We have a Savior") Children's Home as we enjoyed fellowship. Several in our congregation were interested in the sponsorship program to see that the needs of these precious children are being met. Thank you.

You can hear the Dobbs' heartwarming story on our website at stocktonanglican.org. Scroll down to the sermon for Advent III.

A correction to the article I submitted last month for Shepherd's Love: I had stated that we collected \$782 at the Diocesan Convention for the children at Twinomujuni Children's Home for Christmas *presents*. We found out at the Shepherd's Love board meeting that the money will be used for their Christmas *party*. The children and staff at the orphanage prepare a feast and buy small presents for the other kids who live in the area whom they invite to the party. It teaches the children to help those less fortunate than them. It is hard to find words to appropriately express how thoughtful and sobering this is.

The Daughters of the Holy Cross card committee has sent Christmas cards to each of the children and staff by name in a packet that should be delivered to them before Christmas. Inside each greeting is an extra card with a picture of Saint Francis and his prayer, and a few stickers. Your ongoing prayer and support are appreciated. ♦



Ministry Contacts

Altar Flowers.....	Church Office
Altar Guild.....	Fr. Joshua
Acolytes.....	Deacon Jeff
Choir.....	Nancy Blaylock
Collection Counter.....	Church Office
Daughters of the Holy Cross ...	Agnes Olmsted
Feeding the Homeless.....	Deacon Jeff
Homebound Ministry.....	Church Office
Homeless Women Ministry.....	Cat Vaughn
Hospitality (Coffee Hour).....	Cat Vaughn
Lectors.....	Terry Beth
Office Help (fold bulletins)	Church Office
Prayer Team.....	Mike Griffin
Senior Ministry.....	Church Office
Taizé Prayer.....	Gigi Kemalyan
Ushers.....	Church Office



Are you interested in getting plugged into a ministry at Saint Francis?

Talk to one of the ministry leaders listed above on Sunday, or contact the church office at:

209-565-0648

Mon – Fri 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Look for more opportunities in the coming months as we roll out updates to our Parish Ministries!



Shepherd's Love

is a non-profit organization dedicated to the support of orphans and widows in Kabala, Uganda, in the Kigezi Diocese. If you would like to learn more, see Stephen and Agnes Olmsted. ♦

JANUARY 2020						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2	3	4 10am Mass
5 Christmas II 9am Catechesis 10am Mass	6 Epiphany	7	8	9 5:30pm Bible Study @ Lodi Panera Bread	10 11am DHC	11
12 Epiphany I 9am Catechesis 10am Mass	13	14	15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17	18
19 Epiphany II 9am Catechesis 10am Mass	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Church Office Closed	21 10am Altar Guild	22	23 5:30pm Bible Study @ Lodi Panera Bread	24	25
26 Epiphany III 9am Catechesis 10am Mass Annual Meeting after the service	27	28	29	30	31	

January Birthdays

Carmela Pardilla	2
Ernie Beth	4
Wilson Melchor	6
Sally Kenst	12
Kathy Lynch	17
Ryan Vaughn	17
Helen Ripken	20
Marvin Lykins	20
Samantha Towne	21
Petrina Edwards	27
Karen Giambastiani	30



Wedding Anniversaries

Mr & Mrs Cliff Kenst	29
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Upcoming Events

Jan 4	First Saturday Mass 10:00 a.m. at St Francis Church
	Feeding the Homeless 11:00 a.m.
Jan 9	Daniel Bible Study 5:30 p.m. (Lodi)
Jan 10	DHC Meeting 11:00 a.m.
Jan 15	Newsletter Deadline
Jan 20	Office Closed (MLK Jr. Holiday)
Jan 21	Altar Guild 10:00 a.m.
Jan 26	Annual Meeting

Don't see your birthday or anniversary? Please let the church office know and we'll get you "in" next time! Call: 209-565-0648 or e-mail: sfaachurch@gmail.com



Online Resources

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF SAN JOAQUIN

Our Diocese of San Joaquin Website:

<https://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net/>

Diocesan Newsletter: [https://](https://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net/newsletter.html)

www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net/newsletter.html

Daily Opportunities to read/hear the Word:

<http://www.missionstclare.com/english/>

<https://crossroadsabbey.podbean.com/#>

<https://anglicanpastor.com/heres-the-acnas-final-daily-office-lectionary-in-a-single-spreadsheet/>

<https://first5.org/>

THE MESSENGER

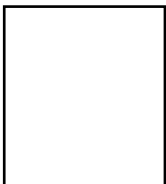
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VESTRY

2019 - Mike Combs, Mike Finney
2020 - Mark Kemalyan, Agnes Olmsted
2021 - Rose Beth, Denis Ceballos



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