

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

February 2020

Discipleship Is A Lot Like “Wax On, Wax Off”

By Father Joshua Drake

Growing up I loved the movie *The Karate Kid*! There are so many iconic characters and scenes in that movie. One of the most famous is probably the “wax-on, wax-off” scene. In this scene karate master Mr. Miyagi instructs his student to wax his collection of vintage cars. He gives him very specific instructions how to apply the wax on the car... and how to take the wax off the car.



His student Daniel-san does not know why he is doing this seemingly menial task. Yet, as an obedient disciple to his master, he does it. Wax on... wax off... wax on... wax off... This is not the only seemingly menial task Daniel-san has to do for Mr. Miyagi: he also has to sand his entire deck and paint his entire fence. Pretty soon Daniel-san starts to get restless, because he wanted to learn karate but instead was being taken advantage of in the form of free labor.

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It is later revealed that all of those seemingly menial tasks were creating in Daniel-san the muscle memory and instilling in his body the movements needed for blocking and laying various foundations of karate. And there is a wonderful scene when Daniel-san realizes all of this and sees that everything Mr. Miyagi was doing had a purpose, even if Daniel-san did not understand it at first.

One of the reasons I love this movie and this specific scene so much is that it plays out almost like some of the stories and parables of the Desert Fathers and Monastics. The Desert Fathers and Monastics taught that discipleship is not merely academic study but also the shaping of the heart and will, the honing of obedience, and the working out of our salvation in the service of God, the Church, and our neighbor.

As I shared at the Annual Meeting last month, the theme of 2020 for our parish, as well as the theme and focus for our entire diocese, is

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Deacon's Corner



Shalom!

I hope you had a great January. As we begin the New Year we have started a new biweekly Thursday evening book study: *Daniel—Spiritual*

Living in a Secular World (see p. 4 for time and place). Daniel shows us examples of how we should live today.

Daniel shows us that community is important, with his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Daniel built a community of like-minded friends to help them cope with what was going on around them. They relied on and trusted God to guide them along their path. That is one aspect of what we do when we come to church.

Three things happen when we come to church:

1. We come to a place safe from attacks and deceptions; 2. we are fed spiritually; and 3. we become refreshed to carry the Gospel back out into the world. What does that look like?

1. You come in from an exhausting week of attacks and worldly deceptions. As the week goes on we are continually bombarded by the secular world to get rid of our Christian values. By coming to church we, like Daniel and his friends, create a community in which we are around like-minded followers of Christ: to be refreshed, to be comforted in our beliefs.

2. You get fed spiritually by both the Word and the Eucharist. As Daniel and his friends stuck to a specific diet that not only set them apart but helped them in their community, we too stick to a specific diet of the Eucharist and the Word. That sets us apart from the world and helps strengthen us in our Christian values.



3. You are strengthened and refreshed to head back out into the world to spread the Gospel and make disciples. After we praise God, get fed, sing, and pass the peace to one another, we are sent out into the world to spread the Gospel. But we do this knowing that at the start of the next week we again get to be refreshed by Christ and the Eucharist.

In conclusion, we have a good example in Daniel and his friends of how to not only worship but how to live in a secular world—how to stay strong in the face of a world that is ever trying to convince us to leave the Christian faith. With the help of Jesus and our worship community we can stay strong and fight the good fight, we can finish the race. We do this not on our own but in our community of fellow believers.

May the Peace of the Lord be always with you!

—Deacon Jeff Stugelmeyer ♦

Coffee (or Tea) with the Clergy



Desiring to be available to both our parish and the local community, Father Joshua will be working several mornings a week out of local coffee and bubble tea shops.

He will post times and locations on the Church Facebook page and will email his planned times and locations in advance via Flocknote for those interested. Or you can contact him directly for details.

Feel free to stop by for prayer, counsel, a short Bible study, to talk theology, or simply to have a conversation. And if you know anyone who might want to talk to a priest, please let them know! This is open to anyone! ♦



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
Ash Wednesday	12 & 7 p.m.	Imposition of Ashes @ St. Francis Church

Candlemas: An Ancient Tradition

Candlemas, also known as the **Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus** and the **Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, is a Christian Holy Day commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. It is based upon the account of the presentation of Jesus in Luke 2:22–40. In accordance with Leviticus 12:4, a woman was to be presented for purification by sacrifice 33 days after a boy's circumcision.

Candlemas was celebrated by Christians in Jerusalem as early as the fourth century. Traditionally it falls on February 2, the 40th day of the Christmas–Epiphany season.

On Candlemas, many Christians bring their candles to their local church, where they are blessed and then used for the rest of the year. For Christians, these blessed candles serve as a symbol of Jesus Christ who referred to Himself as the Light of the World.

Saint Francis Church will celebrate Candlemas on Sunday, February 2nd.

If you would like to have your home altar, prayer, or Sabbath candles blessed, bring them to church with you and see Father Joshua for instructions. The candles will be returned to you after the service. ♦



Ash Wednesday, February 26

12:00 noon Spoken Mass
7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist



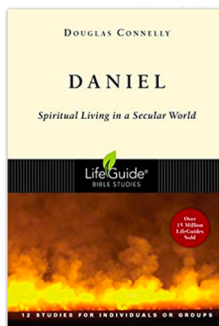
All are from the dust, and to dust all return.
—Ecclesiastes 3:20 ESV

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 email. ♦

Serious Discipleship



Daniel: Spiritual Living in a Secular World

Lodi Bible Fellowship - Panera Bread, 2533 W Kettleman Ln
Every other Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Led by Deacon Jeff

Study guide: *Daniel: Spiritual Living in a Secular World* by Douglas Connelly (\$7.99 on Amazon).

It's not too late to join us for lively discussion and wonderful fellowship! This month we meet on February 6 and 20 at 5:30 p.m. ♦

Scripture of the Month

Date	Old Testament	New Testament
Feb 2	Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 84	Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40
Feb 9	2 Kings 22:8-20 Psalm 27	1 Corinthians 2:1-16 Matthew 5:13-20
Feb 16	Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 67	Acts 1:1-8 Matthew 9:35-38
Feb 23	Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 99	Philippians 3:7-14 Matthew 17:1-9



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

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discipleship. However, I want to remind us to expand our understanding of what discipleship is and how it is done. It of course includes study of God's Holy Word but it also involves many other things which shape our hearts and wills through our bodies, in a similar way as "wax on, wax off" shaped Daniel-san in *The Karate Kid*. I believe that one of the most effective ways to grow in our discipleship is to serve God through serving our local Church and neighbor.

Over the years I have found my passion for God has been the most fervent, my obedience to His Word most ardent, and my love for others most apparent when I was actively serving my local Church. And this was not always as a priest or pastor but often as a greeter, chair set up person, child-care worker, church musician, powerpoint person, cleanup person, and more. In fact, in a very real way my journey to the priesthood started by helping set up chairs after youth group in high school. I discovered that during these times I was learning what it meant to be faithful with the small things, or as it is often said, "the way we do anything is the way we do everything."

This year we are going through a season of growth as a parish, and I want to make sure our growth goes deep. We are entering into a season

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We Mourn With You

Richard Byars, Paula Smith - *Stephanie Byars, Feb. 1*
Jeff Stugelmeyer - *John Stugelmeyer, Feb. 4*
Bill Thomas - *his sister Carolyn, Feb. 8*
Betty Howison - *Al Howison, Feb. 10*
Mike Griffin - *Joan Griffin, Feb. 19*
Margie Mierkey - *Lorraine Mierkey, Feb. 26*
Kathy Lynch - *Terry Lynch, Feb. 26*
Jane May - *Jim May, Feb. 27*
Bernard Thomas - *Priscilla Thomas, Feb. 27*
Sally Kenst - *Madeleine Adams, Feb. 28*



We're Praying For...

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

Selfless Service

Continued from page 4

of recruitment and refinement of our current ministries, as well as the founding of new ones. For example, we hope to fine-tune our Greeting and Usher Ministry to instill a deep sense of welcome and hospitality to help newcomers feel as welcome and connected as possible. Another example is a new Elder Care and Homebound Ministry Initiative we will be starting. We will also be expanding our Acolyte and Altar Guild ministries.

It is my deep desire to have everyone in our congregation connected to some form of ministry in the coming year, where people can discover and hone their gifts and do the “wax on, wax off” of discipleship.

We need to be a Church of disciples, not spectators.

I am currently reading the book *Multiply* by Francis

Chan with our Bishop and a few other priests in our diocese. In the book Chan says: *“So many in the church end up sidelined in a spectator mentality that delegates disciple-making to pastors and professionals, ministers and missionaries. But this is not the way it’s supposed to be.”*

This resonates with me deeply. For our Church to continue to grow and continue on for many generations into the future, we need to empower everyone to walk in the good works God has specifically ordained and prepared for them to walk in, and release them into the ministry God has given them to do. We need to be a Church of disciples, not spectators. We need to allow our *serious discipleship* to be worked out and lived out in *selfless service*, and culminating in *sacred worship*. ♦

Peace be with you,

Fr. Joshua+

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! ♦



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 info. ♦



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 on Sunday morning. **Please take a moment and sign them each week.** It’s a simple way to make these folks feel like they are part of our parish even if they can’t physically join us on Sundays. ♦

Get Involved

Shepherd's Love: Christmas Thanks

By Agnes Olmsted



The students and staff at Twinomujuni Children's Home in Kabale, Uganda, each received a different and personalized Christmas card from Saint Francis Church. Each card included a Prayer of Saint Francis and a few fun stickers. Special thanks to Nancy Thomas, the card committee, Daughters of the Holy Cross, and Pauline Litfin for the specialty Christmas cards. ♦



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, talk to Stephen and Agnes Olmsted. ♦

The Hospitality Committee Is Thankful for Your Help!

Our Sunday coffee hour is an opportunity to enjoy fellowship, make new friends, and reconnect with others. Special thanks to those who donated their time, treasure, and talent: Roberta Dato, Sam Towne, and Jessica Aaron. ♦

Ministry Contacts

Altar Flowers.....	Church Office
Altar Guild	Father Joshua
Acolytes.....	Deacon Jeff
Collection Counter.....	Church Office
Daughters of the Holy Cross....	Agnes Olmsted
Feeding the Homeless.....	Deacon Jeff
Homebound Ministry.....	Father Joshua
Homeless Women Ministry.....	Cat Vaughn
Hospitality (Coffee Hour).....	Cat Vaughn
Lectors	Terry Beth
Music.....	Nancy Blaylock, Gigi Kemalyan
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.

209-565-0648

Office Hours Monday-Thursday
by Appointment Only
CLOSED Fridays

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

FEBRUARY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	New Church Office Hours: Until a new office administrator is hired, the office is open by appointment and is always closed on Fridays and holidays. Please contact Father Joshua if you need access to the church.					1 10am Mass 11am (approx.) Feeding the homeless
	2 Presentation of Christ in the Temple/Candlemas 9am Catechesis 10am Mass	3	4	5	6 5:30pm Bible Study @ Panera in Lodi	7 Office Closed
9 Epiphany V 9am Catechesis 10am Mass	10	11	12 3pm DHC	13	14 Office Closed	15 Newsletter Deadline 12:00 Noon
16 Epiphany VI 9am Catechesis 10am Mass 5pm Fellowship at Finney's (Tracy)	17 Presidents' Day Church Office Closed	18 10:30am Altar Guild 11:30am-4pm Deanery Clericus*	19	20 5:30pm Bible Study @ Panera in Lodi	21 Office Closed	22
23 Transfiguration 9am Catechesis 10am Mass 12pm Vestry (unless otherwise notified)	24	25	26 Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes at 12pm and 7pm	27	28 Office Closed	29

* In the Anglican Church, **Clericus** is a monthly gathering of the Clergy in a Deanery for the purpose of mutual encouragement, communication, and study, under the leadership of the Regional or Rural Dean.

February Birthdays

Willy Gaa	12
Ted Yumoto	17
Marilen Gaa	17
Jim May	22
Alicia Drake	28



Wedding Anniversaries

Mr & Mrs Davy Emmatty	24
Mr & Mrs Jose Rosal	26

Upcoming Events

Feb 1	First Saturday Mass 10:00 a.m. at St Francis Church
	Feeding the Homeless 11:00 a.m.
Feb 2	Candlemas (see p. 3)
Feb 12	Daughters of the Holy Cross 3:00 p.m.
Feb 15	Newsletter Deadline
Feb 18	Altar Guild 10:30 a.m.
Feb 26	Ash Wednesday Service 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.

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://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

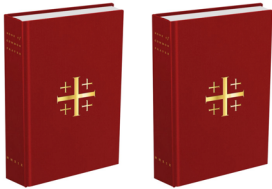
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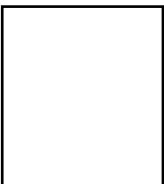
VESTRY

2020 - Mark Kemalyan, Agnes Olmsted
2021 - Rose Beth, Denis Ceballos
2022 - Bill Aaron, Joe Dietrich



The New 2019 Book of Common Prayer

Now available for purchase from Anglican Liturgy Press
<http://bcp2019.anglicanchurch.net/index.php/purchase/>



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