

THE MESSENGER

MARCH 2018

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

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The Lenten Journey Continues

In the early Church, the 40 days of Lent were considered as the final segment of the journey of becoming a Christian which culminated in baptism at the Vigil of Easter. In our time, the Lenten journey prepares for baptism for those not yet baptized, and for renewal of baptismal promises for those already baptized.

Thus, Baptism is the central theme in the celebration of Lent. This year, on the first Sunday in Lent, the Gospel of Mark takes up this theme and situates it in that part of the journey after baptism. What happens in life's journey after baptism?

Mark answers this question by describing what happened to Jesus after his baptism in (1:9-13):

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

Then, Mark immediately tells us what happened after Jesus' baptism: ¹² **At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness,** ¹³ **and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan.**

After his baptism, **Jesus was tempted by Satan.**

This then is the answer to the question "What happens in life's journey after baptism?" **Life's journey after baptism is full of testings or of temptations!**

I used the words "testings" or "temptations" because the meanings of both words are applicable in this context. "To Test" is not to try to flunk the testees but to determine what they know and are capable of doing. The purpose is to help them grow and strengthen their resolve, "To Tempt" is to try to make the testee fail. The purpose is to lead the testees to sin.

This is important to keep in mind when we reflect on the tests/temptations of Christ (test/temptations in our life's journey) and on the disciplines offered by the Church to counter these tests/temptations.

FIRST TEMPTATION – Food: Jesus "fasted forty days and forty nights. He was hungry. The tempter exploited this hunger by saying: *"Command these stones become loaves of bread."*

SECOND TEMPTATION – Pride and self-centeredness: Then the devil took Jesus to the top of the temple, and said to him, *"If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here."* Don't worry, the devil says, with their hands, the angels will support you. **TOP OF THE TEMPLE = TOP OF THE WORLD:** well known, famous, at one's fingertips = popular, center of attraction = developing into ego-centeredness, ego-mania.

THIRD TEMPTATION – Wealth and Power: Then the devil *"showed him all the kingdoms of the world."* *"All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me,"* so says the devil.

To these three temptations the Church offers three classical responses: **FASTING** in the face of temptation of food and drink, **PRAYER** vs. pride and self-centeredness, and **ALMSGIVING** vs. wealth and power.

In our journey in the 'wilderness' of life, let us remember what we learned about "testings" and "temptations." In times of testing, we find opportunities to grow: to strengthen our faith and our resolve. But let us also remember that in times of temptation, the devil is real and will try to turn us away from God and toward sin.

From the same perspective, let us also remember that the disciplines: **FASTING, PRAYER, AND ALMSGIVING** will not only help us avoid sin, but they will help us grow in our Christian life.

May we continue our Lenten journey along this line and in this spirit.

Fr. Woodrow Gubuan

Sacred Worship

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Shalom,

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart

from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

We are here in the midst of Lent which calls us to penance, fasting, and almsgiving by denying ourselves, taking up our cross, and following Jesus. Upon talking with a parishioner she gave me the idea for my March article, I want to thank her for that.

One important part of denying oneself is to let Jesus lead, and the passage I quoted is a good reminder that Jesus is our nourishment, i.e., we are fed by Him. The branches need the vine to survive; without it they wither and die. The branches, being attached to the vine, are called to bear fruit. The branch does not say: "look at how beautiful I am," or goes out on its own and tries to produce fruit. It merely produces what the vines dictates it to produce.

Some great things are starting to happen to St. Francis and will continue to happen as long as we bear the fruit of the vine. In branching out into the community, which is greatly needed, St. Francis will deny itself and let the vine, Jesus, bear much fruit.

One such way is the music. The choir is starting to branch out by the introduction of the Taizé. They are branching out by asking college choirs if they are interested. Another is with book studies. A way to branch out from that: once you have been through a book study, have one in your home or at a different time, and invite family members or neighbors to attend. One last way is to be attentive to newcomers that attend our church.

We have welcome packets by where the bulletins are; give them one, notice them, and be friendly.

Lastly I would like to remind you that bearing fruit takes time and patience. The fruit also needs to be taken care of so that it will grow. The proper care will allow the fruit to grow to its full potential. So let us start taking proper care, allowing the vine to nurture us, so that in denying ourselves, the fruit we bear abides in Jesus.

May the Peace of the Lord be always with You!

Deacon Jeff Stugelmeyer



Holy Communion on the First Saturday of each month at 9:30am

An opportunity to gather and praise God before you "Go and Make Disciples" in the different food ministries St Francis offers in our community.

Fridays in Lent

Soup/Stations of the Cross – 6pm

Wednesdays in Lent

March 7th & 21st Movie & Popcorn

6pm Snacks, 6:30pm, Movie

Taizé – March 14th at 7pm

(see article on page 6)



Child Care is Available each Sunday from 9am.

Please see an Usher for location.

Sundays

9:30am St Francis of Assisi

2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month

2pm O'Connor Woods Chapel
3400 Wagner Heights Rd, Stockton



Serious Discipleship

Arts & Crafts Mini-Retreat for Adults Saturday, March 17th 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall



Painters and crafters are invited to the first St. Francis Church Arts & Crafts Mini-Retreat for Adults!

Come be inspired in your creativity by spending time with others whom God has called to create beauty in its many expressions.

This retreat is for artists and crafters who would like to work on their chosen project in community. Please bring a quiet craft project and all necessary materials. No craft materials or project suggestions will be offered. However, we will have a limited amount of art supplies available.

In order to keep things quiet enough to work while we visit with each other, we ask that children stay at home. **There will be no childcare available.** Pre-teens accompanied by an adult or teens are welcome as long as they are working on creative projects.

Those who are not painters or crafters but would like to spend the morning in quiet rest, reading, or journaling are also welcome; we will have a designated quiet room.

The last half hour of our time will be open to share about your project with the group, if you so desire. (Optional!)

No refreshments provided, but we will have hot water for tea and a Keurig coffee maker. Please bring your own Keurig coffee pods and tea bags.

No registration is required, just drop in any time between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, 17 March 2018. Bring a friend or neighbor!

Supply Donations Needed

We are in need of donations of the following supplies for the Arts & Crafts Mini-Retreat:

- 6 round white plastic table cloths (party supply store)
- Felt markers
- Colored pencils
- Inexpensive watercolor or acrylic sets
- Assorted paint brushes
- 1 pad watercolor paper
- 1 roll masking tape
- Origami paper
- Card stock
- Glue
- Magazines (for collage artists)
- 2 pairs of scissors
- Pens, pencils, and a couple of legal pads (for the writers)
- Stained glass adult coloring books or pages

Drop off your donations in the box marked "Art & Crafts Mini-Retreat" in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

Questions? Contact Gigi at 209-200-2319 (text / voicemail) or email singinggardenersx2@live.com

Art can delight our eyes and inspire devotion. Art can deepen our understanding and enrich our worship. It can soothe, delight, and set us free.
– Robin Jensen, "Art, Faith, and Christian Community"



Daily Office Resource

<http://legereme.com/office>

The ACTS class is still in progress at 8:30am on Sundays. It is not too late to join. See Deacon Jeff or Cyndi Telander for more info. Study Guide \$28



Selfless Service

Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 9:45am
St Francis Church

New Study begins March 7th



Choir: Upcoming Rehearsals: Mar 25th

Coffee Hour Hosts: See Cat Rhodes

Altar Guild: March 20th @ 10am

Daughters: March 10th @10am

Bishop's Committee Meeting: Mar 18th or 25th

Our Diocese of San Joaquin Website:
<http://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net/>
Diocesan Newsletter:
<http://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net/san-joaquin-anglican.html>

Other Ministry Opportunities

Acolyte
Lector
Prayer Team
Collection Counter
Hospitality
Usher
Flowers
Homebound Ministry
Senior Ministry



March 4th

Exodus 20:1-21
Psalm 19:7-14
Romans 7:12-25
John 2:13-22

March 11th

2 Chronicles 36:14-23
Psalm 122
Ephesians 2:4-10
John 6:1-15

March 18th

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51
Hebrews 4:14—4:1-10
John 12:20-36

March 25th

Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Psalm 22:1-21
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:32—15:47



Food For Families

Thank you for donations to Food For Families in the manger collection area. The church cannot give away food that is **outdated**. These families have small kitchens so household size nonperishables are needed:

- Peanut Butter
- Canned Meat
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit
- Grain Products

Kitchen staples such as:

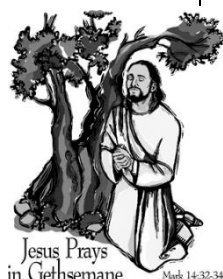
- Oil
- Mayonnaise

are welcome. Thank You.

Garden of Gethsemane

March 29th to March 30th from 9pm to 9am

Congregants may sign up to keep watch in the church throughout the night, reminiscent of Jesus' all night vigil in the Garden of Gethsemane at the Altar of Repose. Sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Security will be provided



March

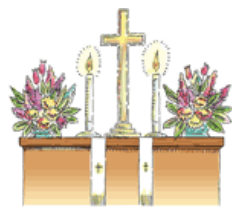
- 10th Mr & Mrs Randy Hamilton
- 22nd Mr & Mrs Dan Tejano



March

- 3rd Meriam Matulac
- 4th Cyndi Telander
- 5th Sandra Bradbury
James Aaron
Mark Kemalyan
- 8th Daralyn Tejano
- 9th Audrey Tan
- 10th Marybeth Massod
- 11th Jose Rosal Jr
- 21st Janice Van Ornum
- 25th Claude Smart
- 31st Jeff Stugelmeyer
- 28th Bernard Thomas

Don't forget to sign the cards on the back table for our homebound and sick



February Altar Flower Donations

- Jeff Stugelmeyer in memory of his father, John
- Steve & Agnes Olmsted in memory of the birthday of Rev Robert Olmsted
- Kathy Lynch in memory of her husband, Terry



March

- 2nd Joe Lawrence - Carolyn Turpin
- 7th Marjorie Dietrich - Joe Dietrich
- 9th Virginia Blewett - Carolyn Turpin
- 13th Cindy Ford Yumoto - Ted Yumoto
- 19th Frances Lykins - Marvin Lykins
- 29th Myrtle Johnson Crowder - Gary Crowder
- 31st Eva Berghuis - Frank Berghuis

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stocktonanglican.org

The Messenger

Published monthly by
St Francis of Assisi Anglican Church

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The Rev. Woodrow Gubuan - Vicar & Publisher

Deacon Jeff Stugelmeyer
Kimberly Combs - Parish Administrator

Bishop's Committee:
'18 Rachel Allanigue, Jim Telander
'19 Mike Combs, Mike Finney
'20 Mark Kemalyan, Agnes Olmsted

There is a First Aid Kit, Aspirin, and a Defibulator Available under the Attendance Check in Table





Taizé Prayer and Sacred Silence

By Gigi Kemalyan

On Wednesday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m., we will hold our first monthly Taizé prayer service at St. Francis Church. If you've never experienced Taizé worship before, you're in for a pleasant surprise.

The first thing you will notice is a sacred silence. Stepping into the church, it's quieter than a library. The lights are low; dozens of candles twinkle on the altar; the mood is one of hushed anticipation. You are invited to sense God's presence in the stillness.

A Taizé prayer service is not like a regular Sunday mass: there is no procession, no sermon, no Eucharist. Instead, the contemplative singing of prayers is the main focus as together we offer our hearts, minds, and voices to the Lord.

Taizé music emphasizes simple phrases, usually lines from the Psalms or other pieces of Scripture, that are sometimes sung as a round. The songs are not difficult and are repeated a number of times so that everyone can get comfortable with the melody and allow the words to become prayers.

An important part of a Taizé service is contemplative silence. These days we are relentlessly bombarded with sights and sounds that threaten to drown out the still, small voice of God. Being quiet and mindful against this barrage of external distractions takes some effort.

Sacred silence weaves a unifying thread through a Taizé prayer service: we gather in silence; we sing and pray interspersed with Scripture reading and silence; and we leave in silence. This silence helps us to focus inwardly and allows God to touch our hearts in a deeper way.

In the middle of our Taizé service you will experience a brief interval of complete quiet. Although it's only about five minutes long, it may seem much longer at first. Our minds are so used to being preoccupied that it can be a challenge simply to be still and wait for the Lord.

When you experience this period of silence for the first time, don't be discouraged if your mind wanders or you feel restless. Be patient with yourself. Be present. Allow your mind to get used to the idea of quiet. Wait for the Lord and be open to His voice. Remaining in silence in God's presence, open to the Holy Spirit, is already prayer.

This Lenten season we invite you to find rest in the Lord at our Taizé prayer service. Come. Listen. Pray. Sing. Or just sit and soak it all in. God will meet you in the songs and in the silence.

**Taizé Prayer - Wednesday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary.**

The Taizé Community is an ecumenical Christian monastic community in Taizé, Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy, France. It is composed of more than one hundred brothers, from Catholic and Protestant traditions, who originate from about thirty countries across the world. The community, though Western European in origin, has sought to include people and traditions worldwide. They have sought to demonstrate this in the music and prayers where songs are sung in many languages, and have included chants and icons from the Eastern Orthodox tradition. (Source: Wikipedia)



**Also let us welcome our New Bishop's
Committee members:**

Mark Kemalyan
Agnes Olmsted

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Lenten Reflections

By Agnes Olmsted



I am the Bread of Life

In John 6:35, *Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."* (NKJV)

This fourth Gospel according to John the Evangelist is focused on conveying the divinity of Christ. A very important part of this is answering, "Who does Jesus say He is?" "I am the Bread of Life" is the first of seven "I Am" statements in the gospel of John.

Jesus had just provided physical nourishment in feeding the 5000. Some were still asking for another miraculous sign to help them believe He was who He claimed to be. They brought up the manna their forefathers had eaten in the wilderness. They were looking for more.

Continued on next column

We are created with a spiritual hunger in our heart, soul, and mind for something – Someone – that cannot be filled with flour and water. People desperately try to fill their cravings with worldly goods, fancies, activities, and alternative idols. People cannot be satisfied with anything less than Christ. Whoever partakes of Him will never again know spiritual hunger. He is sufficient to fill all our need.

One of the identifying marks of the early Church was that on the first day of the week they gathered to break the bread of life, and as they did so, to affirm the presence of Jesus with them in the room. In the Holy Sacrament of the Altar, the bread reminds us of the reality of Jesus giving us Himself, to sustain and nurture us for our life in Him. "This is my body which is given for you: do this in remembrance of me." As the Bread of Life, Jesus is the One who spiritually sustains us.

Jesus fed the physically hungry, but Jesus' greatest concern was for people with spiritual hunger. Like the manna, which lasted for a day, but was provided each day as needed, we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." We must also pray daily for the bread that He alone can provide. No one is lacking. None of Him is wasted.



Bishop's Committee Retreat



Stations of the Cross & Reflection



Donate for Easter Sunday Altar Flowers by using the Easter Flower Envelope at the card table under the Welcome Sign.



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