



St. Francis of Assisi

Elementary School - Sacramento, California

Visit us at www.stfranciselem.org

GUBBIO GAZETTE

December 9, 2009

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School is dedicated to living the Gospel values. Our Franciscan, academically challenging curriculum teaches and supports students in becoming contributing members of their communities.

St. Francis of Assisi

Schoolwide Learning Expectations

A St. Francis of Assisi Student is:

A) **Spiritual** *who*

- understands the Catholic faith
- demonstrates Gospel values
- actively participates in prayer celebrations
- shows a love of God, others, and self

B) **Academic** *who*

- actively solves problems and thinks critically
- makes progress through the diocesan standards
- develops and shares knowledge and talents
- demonstrates a curiosity and respect for learning

C) **Respectful** *who*

- appreciates diversity and the uniqueness of others
- practices good citizenship
- lives the "Acts of Courtesy"
- cares for God's creations

D) **Confident** *who*

- recognizes self-worth
- leads and cooperates
- embraces challenges
- always perseveres

E) **Responsible** *who*

- practices self-discipline
- makes Christ-like decisions
- owns his/her choices
- is trustworthy

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Happy second week of Advent! Our students have been preparing for the birth of Christ in their classes and during our weekly Advent prayer services. My wish is that you and your family are taking some time to prepare for Jesus, also. The following prayer is one that I came across a couple of years ago and it truly is beautiful:

Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehem's of our own home and daily lives.

Take time to be with your family, take time to slow things down, take time to look in the mirror and see Jesus looking back at you.

Take time to be you, take time to be a little child again and fully embrace the meaning and blessings of Christmas.

May God keep you safe during these days, may He watch over your family and loved ones, and may He continue to touch your heart and soul.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our annual Christmas Pageant next Thursday evening. **Students need to be seated with their class in church by 6:40** (they will know where to sit). The evening begins with our Choir Christmas Concert at **6:45**, and the pageant will follow at **7:00**. **TK and Kindergarteners will meet in the church Chapel between 6:30-6:40.** (continued on next page)


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Our WASC accreditation team came for their pre-visit on Monday and loved St. Francis Elementary. The team will be back on January 27th for three days to do the full accreditation. It is a very exciting time for all of us!

Please make sure you scroll below and click on the attached flyers, also. I have heard that many of you are not aware of the attachments to our Wednesday Envelope. Thank you!

In the Peace of St. Francis of Assisi,

Mrs. Laurie Power



**St. Francis Elementary
School Calendar
December 2009**

December

- 14** Prayer Service led by 6th grade, 8:10am
- 15** Advent Reconciliation Service, grades 5-8, 10:30am in church
- 17** Christmas Concert and Pageant, Church, 6:45pm
- 18** Noon dismissal; NO AFTER SCHOOL EXTENSION

Religion Round-up

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.

Luke 1:78



As you know, Father Anthony suffered the tragic loss of his mother on Thanksgiving night. Several of our school families attended her funeral on Saturday to show our love and support for our pastor. The students served as honor guard and sang in the choir. It was a

beautiful farewell to the woman who gave us our beloved pastor.

In addition, Fr. Anthony's assistant, Father Larry, fell and broke his hip just before Thanksgiving. He is recovering from hip surgery. Please keep Father Larry and Father Anthony in your prayers as they recover and heal.

Last week we began our church year with the First Sunday of Advent. Our school tradition is to celebrate Advent by building a Jesse Tree during our prayer services. The first Advent service was led by seventh grade. They told the stories of Noah, Abraham and Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.

On Monday, the fourth grade led us in a special dramatization of the stories of Moses, David, Solomon, and Jonah. They lit two candles on the Advent wreath.

Yesterday, the fifth grade prepared the Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, a holy day of obligation in the church. Due to the shortage of priests, we combined the school Mass with the parish Mass at 12:10. Our kids were wonderful leaders for the parish community. The school choir sang beautifully! The fifth grade brought up a collection of \$152 for the Friar's Fund for Parent Care in remembrance of Fr. Anthony's mother. Thank you for your generosity, fifth grade.

Due to the recent events with Fr. Anthony and Fr. Larry, our Advent Reconciliation Service, originally scheduled for Dec. 3rd, was postponed until Dec. 15 for grades 5-8.

Our official tally for the Trick-or-treat for UNICEF is \$747. We did not quite make our goal of \$1000, but we gave it a good try. Every little bit will help a child in need somewhere in the world.

Our schedule for the next few weeks is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Led by</i>	<i>Time</i>
Mon Dec 14	6 th Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Tues. Dec 15	Advent Reconciliation Service	10:30 – Noon
*****Christmas Break*****		
Mon Jan 4	8 th Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Mon Jan 11	1 st Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.

Parents are always welcome to join us for prayer services and Masses.