



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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July 30, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This past Sunday I preached a sermon about Jesus' promise in the Gospel message, truly a message of Good News [that is what "Gospel" means, "Good News"]: Our heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

That promise is Good News because we all must deal with various puzzling challenges in life, but when we ask, the Holy Spirit will give us the gift of discernment. I went on to describe one significant challenging puzzle facing St. Francis Church - in less than two years we will run out of operating funds as I read the financial reports I have seen. With Holy Spirit help we will be able to cope with those challenges, both our individual challenges, and the collective challenge we face together here at St. Francis.

In order to share this message of both challenge and of hopeful promise, I am mailing copies of the sermon to everyone on the parish mailing list and arranging to publish it on the parish web site. As you read, you will find a request to pray daily for St. Francis Church using a prayer from the *Book of Common Prayer*. A copy of that prayer is included in the box below. Please clip it out and stick it up in your home where you will see it daily and be reminded, such as the refrigerator or bathroom mirror.

With all of us praying and asking God for the promised gift, I believe God will do a surprising and wonderful work here in Youngsville.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Larry Scofield +

*Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*