



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL • EST. 1895

St. Francis of Assisi Church and Elementary School

Timeline

06/18/1841	St. Francis site is part of Mexican government land grant to Don Auguste Sutter formerly known as La Nueva Helvecia.
07/13/1859	Bell blessed and hung at St. Rose of Lima Church. (7th & K) known as “Irish Girls’ Bell”, because it was purchased by ‘Fair maidens of the Emerald Isle’. It was cast in Meneely’s Foundry in West Troy, NY in 1859 & transported around the Horn to Sacramento.
1861	First bishop in Northern CA is Rt. Rev. Eugene O’Connell who resided in Marysville. Sacramento was part of archdiocese of San Francisco.
1868	Diocese of Grass Valley formed.
1886	Diocese of Sacramento formed. First bishop is ex miner Bishop Patrick Manogue
08/22/1894	Franciscans formally accept charge to begin parish in Sacramento.
10/16/1894	Fr. Augustine McClory, OFM arrives from St. Louis, MO on a mission to establish Franciscan Parish.
10/27/1894	Transfer of new district to Franciscans by Bishop Manogue. District boundaries: WEST - 18th St. NORTH - American River EAST - 30th St +/- 5-6 m SOUTH - 3m N of Freeport Missions of parish originally included Nicholas & Ryde. Mass was also said in the Oak Park district & Camp Sacramento was also attended by the parish.
11/13/1894	Lot 2 deeded to Bishop Manogue by Robert and Mary Webb for \$2,500.
11/15/1894	Lots 1, 3 & 4 deeded to Bishop Manogue by various parties for \$4,500.
12/31/1894	Purchase of 1/2 block bounded by 25th & 26th Streets and K. \$7,000 paid to Peter Bohl.

01/11/1895	<p>Fr. Augustine moves into small cottage on site.</p> <p>Sacramento population 30,000. City recovering from 1893 depression. Cattle & horses roamed the grounds on St. Francis site & Sutter's Fort.</p>
01/18/1895	Assistant Fr. Pius Nierman, OFM arrives. Daily masses celebrated in site building in English & German.
01/20/1895	Sunday Franciscan masses begin in rented Union Hall, 20th & O Streets.
02/07/1895	Ground broken for construction of temporary church on corner of 26th & K facing Sutter's Fort ruins. Plans are to build a permanent structure later on at 25th & K. Architect is Brother Adrian Wewer, OFM. Contract awarded to Hook & Son.
02/28/1895	Death of Bishop Manogue. "Irish Girls' Bell" hung in St. Francis belfry at Manogue's request, rung in March to honor Bishop Manogue. Later moved to bell tower in new church where it still hangs.
04/07/1895	<p>First mass held in new clapboard church on Palm Sunday. Friary built behind church on K Street (2518 K Street). Cost of church and friary = \$14,000.</p> <p>Lot at 25th & K rented as cow pasture/to be site of future permanent church. Idea later vetoed.</p> <p>Parish renowned for its artesian well water supplied at well site on K St. Pure water was at a premium in Sacramento at this time. This water used as sole water supply for church, rectory and school until 1959 when the water level dropped and city water came into use. Until then families, came from all over to fill up their water jigs at the fountain.</p>
11/05/1895	Parish School opens. Two story (4 room) clapboard structure located next to church on 26th St, site of current Friary. Cost of school = \$3,600. Students = 37 boys and girls. Teachers - Two Sisters of Mercy borrowed from St. Joseph's Academy: Mary Columba & Mary Bernard joined soon by two lay teachers; Miss Catherine McGinity and later Miss Anne Feeney from Yolo Co.
1897	150 Children in attendance at parish school.
1900	Clapboard Church raised from its foundation and a hall built under it for parish activities. This was used for years as a bowling alley and center for social activities, such as whist parties & ice cream socials.
12/11/1900	Lot on corner of 26th & K purchased for \$1,750 for convent
1901	Convent built north corner of 26th & K. Cost = \$6,500.
08/23/1901	Six Franciscan Sisters arrive to teach from Stella Niagara, NY: Mother Bertha & Sisters Clement, Aquinas, Aloysiana, Henrietta & Pacifica. Students - 95 boys and girls.
1902	School cut in half and rear portion moved back in order to build a new addition between halves and double the size.
1904/5	St. Francis School, Mother Bertha, Superior Kindergarten thru ninth grade. 260 students.

07/13/1908	Clapboard church moved to corner of 25th & K (site of current school) to be used as recreation hall for Parish.
10/18/1908	Cornerstone laid for new church. New church designed by Brother Adrian Wewer OFM, the same architect who designed the first church.
10/23/1910	Dedication of new church by Bishop Grace Cost = \$100,499.90. Stained glass from Tyrolese Art Glass Co. Organ loft, stair case altar railing and base of pulpit constructed from material formerly used as stairway of State Capitol.
1913	Old church turned into gymnasium for youth recreation.
1915	Pipe organ installed. Cost partially paid by Andrew Carnegie. Built by Austin Organ Co. of Hartford, CT for \$2,250.
1919	St. Francis fosters first Boy Scout troop in Sacramento. School building raised and another floor added. Enrollment around 300 students and growing. Boys permitted to mark out baseball diamond on Sutter's Fort grounds to relieve playground congestion between school and church.
07/1924	Completion of new three story school, 25th & K, Cost = \$121,000. School consists of 8-grade elementary and girls high school. Contractor - Wm. Keating.
02/1925	Completion of new friary facing Sutter's Fort on 25th (site of old school) capable of housing 10-12 men. Cost = \$41,000.
09/1925	Completion of auditorium & gym (site of first friary), Cost = \$28,000.
1943	Bishop proposes 4 year girl's high school to be operated in conjunction with elementary.
11/21/1944	Children's celebration of the Golden Jubilee of St. Francis Parish. Opening address: Fr. Gilbert Zlate, OFM. Speeches by: Duane G. Glackin Barbara Carmody Sister M. Bernard
1946	Bats removed from attic of St. Francis Church by parishioner Maurice Bamberry, a contractor and builder.
1950	Old convent demolished & new convent built. Cost = \$150,000.
1952	Parish school crowded with 300 female high school students and almost 400 elementary students, boys and girls. Plans afoot for expansion of school.
1954	Property purchased across alley from school on 25th and 4 ground level classrooms built to accommodate larger enrollment.

1956	<p>New diocesan high school for girls built (Bishop Armstrong HS). St. Francis drops 11th and 12th grades.</p> <p>Nature of neighborhood has changed. Families have migrated to suburbs. The business area has encroached and now surrounds St. Francis with large commercial complexes, medical buildings and multiple apartment complexes. The parish roster is transient. Sunday mass is still well attended by families who grew up in the neighborhood and send their children to the school and to Mass. Sunday, 7:30 pm. Mass has standing room only.</p>
06/1964	St. Francis School drops 10th grade.
06/1966	St. Francis School drops 9th grade.
1969	The Novitiate of the Franciscan Province of Santa Barbara transferred to Sacramento.
1970	<p>Seventy fifth anniversary/Jubilee Celebration of Parish.</p> <p>Changes noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Turning altar & priest around to face the congregation. - Changing the mass to English - Shorter Mass Prayers - Removing the pulpit & Communion rail - Moving the temporary altar out into the body of the church - Fulfillment of Sunday Mass obligation on Saturday evening
10/05/1985	Renovation of church made possible through a \$350,000 donation from Agnes Anderson. Seventy fifth anniversary of construction of St. Francis Church. 90th anniversary of Parish. Guided tours offered.
1992/3	Major restoration of church including restoring and cleaning ceiling & wall stenciling, stained glass windows. Reinforcement added to attain earthquake safety standards. Configuration of altar and seating redesigned to meet needs of current parish. Cost = \$.
1995	Centennial celebration of Parish. Long time parishioner, Maurice Bamberry, oldest member of the Parish, celebrates 105th birthday.
2010	School temporarily moves to All Hallows, whilst the school building on K street undergoes Earthquake proofing.
2013	New bullet proof glass doors are installed at the front of the school, in place of the old metal doors.
08/2014	Mr. Ivan M Hrga, our current principal starts at the school.
2015	New mural is painted in the central stairwell of the elementary school using funds raised from the auction Fund-A-Need.
03/01/2018	St. Francis Elementary becomes an International Baccalaureate Candidate School.
January 2019	A grant is won for \$15,000 from Kaboom and Keurig Dr Pepper for a new play structure. Play structure was completed in January and officially opened.
11/05/2019	St. Francis Elementary celebrates its 124th year.
03/13/2020	School shuts down and reverts to online learning by 03/16/2020 due to the Covid global pandemic.
2020-2021	School is able to return to in-person learning with masking, social distancing and strict covid protocols. Families have the option to keep their kids at home with online learning or to send them to school.

11/05/2020	St. Francis of Assisi Elementary celebrates their 125 th year. Good Day Sacramento and Julissa Ortiz feature the school on the morning show and interview Ivan Hrga, Principal. Students made birthday messages for the school and built and large birthday card. A time capsule was buried alongside the fence by the 25 th street gate and students enjoyed an online magic show with Matt Green. A drive-thru legacy tunnel was put together featuring photos from 1895 to present day for the school community and alumni to safely drive through. The celebrations culminated with our 125 th Anniversary Auction & Gala, which was held virtually through Golden 1 arena in the Sacramento Kings offices at the top of the Kimpton Sawyer Hotel.
June 2021	St. Francis Elementary becomes authorized for the IB PYP program.
2021-2022	School returns to full in-person learning.