

# SAINT ANNE

OF THE SUNSET

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 10, 2025

## *Pastor's Column*

### **Meet Fr. Isaiah**

I am Rev. Fr. Isaiah Patrick Okpe, a Catholic priest from the Catholic Diocese of Kano, Nigeria. Currently at St Anne while attending UCSF as a student Chaplain. My life's journey has been one deeply rooted in faith, resilience, and service to others, shaped by formative experiences from childhood to priesthood.

I was raised in a small village in Kaduna State, in a close-knit and humble Christian family of seven children. My parents, though of modest means—my father a textile worker and my mother a petty trader—instilled in us the enduring values of faith, hard work, kindness, and unity. Village life was simple but rich in community and character-building. Daily chores, long treks to school, and the warm presence of family taught me perseverance and gratitude. It was in this context that I encountered the Church, served as an altar boy, and first felt the calling to the priesthood.

My father was a pillar of strength and discipline, while my mother embodied compassion and empathy. Their balanced guidance shaped my worldview, instilling in me ambition tempered by humility. Their example continues to influence how I serve others today. The loss of my father at age 74 shortly after I administered the sacrament of the sick to him, was a life-altering event. His death left a lasting emotional scar, but it also deepened my reliance on faith and strengthened my resolve to serve.

After years of seminary formation, I was ordained in 2004 by Bishop John Namaza Niyiring OSA. My priesthood has been profoundly marked by the realities of ministry in northern Nigeria, a region with a Muslim majority and a history of religious tensions.

While on pastoral experience in Kano in May 2004, I witnessed civil unrest that left many dead and properties destroyed. The trauma of seeing lifeless bodies in the streets remains etched in my

memory. Yet, amidst the chaos, I found purpose helping distribute relief through the Justice and Peace Commission. That moment revealed to me the healing power of compassionate service.

My priesthood has not been without danger. During my chaplaincy at Saint Stephen's University in Kano, Boko Haram militants attacked during Mass, killing several, including three professors. I survived, but the trauma prompted my reassignment. Again, on January 20, 2012—known as "Black Friday"—Kano suffered coordinated terrorist attacks. My residence was destroyed, parish vehicles burned, and I hid in the bush overnight with others. A fellow priest, whom I had spoken to the day before, was killed while trying to rescue us. That tragedy profoundly affected me, both emotionally and spiritually. These experiences have led me to seek Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) to better understand myself and provide pastoral care to others in crisis.

Over the years, I have built meaningful relationships with parishioners, clergy, and my bishop, all of whom have offered me strength, inspiration, and deepened my sense of vocation. Their love and resilience motivate me to serve with greater empathy and courage.

Reflecting on my life, I see a journey shaped by faith, suffering, and grace. From the simplicity of my childhood to the challenges of ministry in conflict zones, my mission remains clear: to be a servant of peace, healing, and hope in a wounded world.

*~Rev. Fr. Isaiah Patrick Okpe*



## Mass Intentions for the Week

Week of August 10 – August 16, 2025

### Sunday, August 10

8:00AM Mina Sunga – 77<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

10:00AM Vicente Calonia (D)

12:00PM Parishioners of St. Anne

### Monday, August 11

8:45AM Rev. Tony McGuire (D)

### Tuesday, August 12

8:45AM Lorraine, Claire & Ben Gotelli (D)

### Wednesday, August 13

8:45AM Magdalen Lam (D)

### Thursday, August 14

8:45AM Marian Cua & Family - Thanksgiving

### Friday, August 15

8:45AM Catherine & Anthony Kunkel –  
Thanksgiving

### Saturday, August 16

8:45AM Confraternity of St. Anne

5:00PM Herminia Sangalang - Intentions

## Thank You!

### Previous Week's Collection

Sunday Offertory - \$3,777

Second Collection – None

*This week's second collection: Building & Maintenance*

## Community Information

### Medical Professionals with a Desire to Serve.

Coalition of Concerned Medical Professionals (CCMP) is an all-volunteer membership association of physicians, nurses, dentists, other medical professionals and members of the community throughout the Bay Area. CCMP believes that comprehensive medical care must be a right for all, regardless of ability to pay. We were founded in 1976 by a grouping of domestic workers and doctors who saw that low-income workers were without any medical coverage through their work and could not afford to go to the doctor or dentist. CCMP has built a free-of-charge preventive medical care benefit for low-income workers which also includes dental care, optical care, medical education sessions and more. Volunteer medical advocates oversee each case to ensure benefit recipients have transportation to and from appointments, and handle all the follow-up for each case.

Because lack of adequate nutrition is often a problem, CCMP organizes donations of at least two tons of fresh produce and other healthy foods weekly for distribution free-of-charge to low-income working families.

CCMP is 100% volunteer from top to bottom and we refuse government funding to be able to serve the best interest of our low-paid worker benefit recipients.

CCMP advocates and speaks out against legislation which would serve to take away the right to medical care

from those who have no place else to go. We were instrumental in stopping physician-assisted suicide legalization in California five times, until it passed in 2015 in a closed door session. Our volunteers advocate daily to get people onto programs they may be eligible for, or to expunge bills from insurance companies or hospitals they cannot pay.

CCMP has enjoyed the support of St. Anne of the Sunset Catholic Church since 1983!

If you have a cargo van you can donate, we desperately need one for picking up donations of food! If you can volunteer or if you need assistance with our benefit program, call CCMP and ask for Luz at (510) 436-8020.

~ Penny Montemayor, CCMP



## Contact Us!

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**Office:** 415-665-1600

**Address:** 850 Judah St., San Francisco 94122

**Office Hours:** Monday – Friday, 10am – 4:30pm  
Office closed on Federal Holidays

**Daily Mass:** 8:45am

**Sunday Mass:** 5pm Vigil (Saturday), 8am, 10am and 12 pm in Chinese

**Confession:** 20 minutes before Saturday 5pm Vigil and before 8am & 10am Sunday Masses

**Pastoral Emergencies:** 415-866-6455

**Join the Parish:** If you'd like to join our Parish and be part of our community, please go to our website <http://www.stanne-sf.org/> and follow the tabs – **Home** and **Join the parish** *Welcome!*

### *An easy digital payment option for Sunday donations!*

Checks, cash, credit cards are still accepted. To donate using Zelle go to [stannesunset@gmail.com](mailto:stannesunset@gmail.com) or use the Venmo QR Code.



venmo

We are SO grateful for your help!

**Zelle and Venmo!**

*Use Venmo in our Gift Shop too!*

# DONATE BLOOD



**SUNDAY  
AUG 24**

Book an appointment to  
donate life-saving blood  
<https://donors.vitalant.org/>



# ST. ANNE COMMUNITY YARD SALE

**SUNDAY**  
**AUG 24**  
9:00AM-2:00PM

ST. ANNE SCHOOL YARD

Reserve a booth and sell your used stuff,  
vintage clothes, or home-made goods.

**Info:** [stanneyardsale@gmail.com](mailto:stanneyardsale@gmail.com)

