

# The Franciscan



The Bishop's Committee

## From our Vicar... OCT. 2021



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*Lord make me an instrument of your peace, where there is hatred let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon, where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope, where there is darkness, light. And where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine master grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned And it's in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen*

*Prayer attributed to St Francis*

As we turn into Autumn and the Fall Season, we celebrate our Patronal Feast of St Francis with the Blessing of the Animals. What a fitting way to be the church as we bless God's Creation and all the wonder of God's creativity through fur and wings, gills and scales! There is a great invitation handwritten to us by the Spirit to renew our gratitude and thanksgiving for all the wonder of nature and God's Creation around us!

There is also an invitation written for us by St Francis through this prayer attributed to him. As we reflect on these words, I wonder if we renew our commitment to the God of Peace and Love, to be people of God's reflection of peace and love. I wonder if we pray to the Spirit for the strength of hope when we see despair, and to be people of light when we see darkness.

For there is no value in celebrating the gifts of God around us, unless we are willing and choose to surrender our lives to participate in those gifts of Grace God has bestowed on us. It means we are giving ourselves the renewed vows in our love relationship with God, to give freely. It means we choose to forgive others and ourselves and release forgiveness in the world. It means that we offer ourselves a little more of dying to my selfish desires and wants and know the freedom of Grace.

Fall is a season of planting and reaping, of sowing and harvesting. What will be our renewed planting and sowing as we reflect on the prayer of St Francis? Where do we need to reap and harvest that which has been, and allow a new season to emerge? Blessings on you all! See you at the Blessing of the Animals!



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## **STAY CONNECTED WITH US!**

- Pastoral Care through the church office (805)526-5141, email [revsarahkitch@gmail.com](mailto:revsarahkitch@gmail.com) or cell 818-442-4514
- Keep up through the St. Francis Website  
<https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/>
- Sunday Worship Live Streamed with link in the St. Francis Weekly
- Remember to keep in touch with each other through the Phone Tree and stay connected.

Please remember St. Francis with your donations and pledge by

<https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/donate>

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## **Entering Worship Space**

As a worshipping congregation, we are building our hospitality and shared worship to all who come through the doors, and around the grounds at St. Francis. We extend our hands openly to hold all those around us. But what is a worshipping space? Is it just the sanctuary, the building, the service, the bulletin, the music, the preaching?

Each Sunday we allow ourselves to show up, listen and be faithful to be in God's presence with one another. We make a dedicated time and appointment with God and God's people to quiet our minds and the world around us, even for but an hour, and to hear our longings, our prayers and our hopes and dreams. We uphold ourselves before God and we uphold one another in prayers, in peace.

Each Sunday we come with open hands outstretched to receive hungrily the bread of God's salvation and to drink the wine of the promise of new life. We come empty handed and God fills our hands, overflowing to extend them to the world's needs. We bring ourselves gladly and offer again our lives for God's transformative power.

Welcome to worship. Come be with us. Stay for awhile or longer. Linger in the presence of God's Spirit and God's people around you. Allow yourself to be touched by God's love in unexpected places and through means that are consecrated to be a gift. God holds open the door for everyone to come and enter into worship and be filled once again with God's love.

Blessings on us all.

# Blessing of the Animals



October 3, 2021

10:15 AM

## St Francis' Patronal Feast Day -

- Service will be held socially distanced, following all protocols outside on the church patio.
- We welcome all animals large or small to the service - Please be sure to leash or crate all pets / animals.

# BOOTS ON THE PATIO

*A Country Concert & Line Dancing*

Sunday October 17th // 5 - 7 PM





**In the Book of Common Prayer, there is a well known Collect that says:**

*“O Lord Our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O Lover of Souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen. “*

I love this Collect because it expresses attributes of God that are present to us always, such as God’s compassion, mercy and graciousness. I often imagine the graciousness of God as the extravagant love of God just poured out over us, like some magnificent elixir of life that is generously distributed over us all.

I am refreshed and renewed again as we enter back into worship with one another. God catches us up in extravagant love of just enjoying being with God and one another. The measurement of effect is seen as we simply allow ourselves to come together and enter into the moment.

Refreshment comes unbidden often during a day. Sometimes it catches me off guard when I see something that calls my attention to watch and be blessed. It could be someone’s smile, a picture, a moment of reflection, or prayer. In the midst of a busy day, the discipline of taking a moment away and seeking God’s compassion, mercy and grace is available and present to us anytime.

Where do you find refreshment? Often it is in the bigger events such as the vacation at the beach, or the days that don’t demand responsibilities and concentration. Yet, the Grace of God is to be experienced, and indeed given, to us every moment. I wonder in the everyday-ordinary of the work place, of the home, of the children, of the school, wherever we find ourselves if we can find ourselves refreshed in God.

Is it giving ourselves a break at lunch, and talking a walk? Would it be a silent prayer at our desk? Maybe it’s just a quick moment to read a Scripture on that coffee break. Sometimes, it’s just sitting and being quiet. However you consider what might be a way to be refreshed for you, give yourself the value that it is important enough to do it.

Then enter into God’s rest in that moment for you. Please know that I am praying for you as the Collect expresses God’s lavished Grace over us all as we turn to God, for our everything. May you be blessed this month and refreshed.

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## Bible Study



**Bible Study is starting again!**  
Every other Monday starting on September 27 online with David Kitch leading the study on the Lectionary Reading for the following Sunday will be explored, continuing October 11 and 25



**St. Francis Book Club**  
We are forming a new book club and anyone who would like to join us should contact me, Chris 805-276-4971.



The Fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm . We will meet in the Sunday School Classroom.  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## What is worship?

Interestingly enough in researching that very question, I came across the Hebrew and Greek words for worship. *'aboda* (Hebrew) and *latreia* (Greek). Now you may not be up on the meanings of these words, even as I wasn't until I did some reading, but our understanding of worship doesn't always match the meanings in the Scriptures for worship.

You see the words for worship in the Scriptures reflects "service associated with the work done in the temple." Service, serve and minister are the meanings for worship. Of course, as we consider our commitment to God, we understand that our worship of God is our service and dedication to God. It is our ministry, service and serving in the world -- that is worship.

The English word "worship" comes from the word "worthy," and here is one of its classic expressions: "worship" means acknowledging the worth, the worthiness, of the one who is worshiped. It means gladly recognizing and celebrating the fact that this God is who he is and does what he does.

So indeed, if I recognize God as worthy to serve, then I am in worship of this God. It means that all I do is worship in my life if I am acknowledging the worth of the one who is worshiped.

Thus, one of the purposes of Christian worship is that we not only become like the God we see in Jesus Christ, but that we reflect this God in our own lives and to the people and places where we are placed. And this of course means, as many have insisted, that in our worship we are precisely living and acting "in Christ," making real what is true of us through baptism and faith. We become living members of Jesus Christ who in his perfect manhood offers to the Father that love, obedience, and loyalty which is the true human vocation.

This understanding takes worship out of just a once-a-week context and places it in the realm of 24-7 daily living experience.

Of course, where people do not understand the gospel, it is always perfectly possible for them to suppose that by going to church, singing hymns, saying prayers, or putting money into the collection they have earned favor with God. But Christian worship from the very beginning has attempted, to rule this out, to make it clear that such a thing would be a shallow misunderstanding.

Good liturgy planned carefully week by week and year by year, will bring the two together so that they complement and reinforce each other and, most importantly, build up the worshipers in the knowledge and love of God and send them out refreshed for their kingdom-tasks in the world. And if we know what we are about this should mean that in our worship, in our music and readings, in the drama and movement of the mass, in its silence as well as its speech, we are not only reflecting different cultures but contributing creatively and in the power of the Spirit to the culture which our God is bringing about in our own day.

We strive to have a complement of good liturgy and building worship for each of us to enter into a more sacred space when we meet Sunday morning. This includes rotating the liturgical settings of the Mass such as Bethancourt, Southern Harmony, Traditional, and Marty Haugen. As we become more familiar with these settings, we enter into a fuller corporate worship experience.

As well, we seek to offer worship experiences of diversity and seasonal options such as the Taize service during Advent, Jazz Vespers and Blessing of the Animals. All these services seek to enhance our experience of worship, but more importantly, it is hoped that our worship at St. Francis refreshes us and empowers us for our kingdom-tasks in the world. For truly, our worship is our lives as we reflect the glory of God and commit and dedicate ourselves to God.

## Greetings from Bogota Kids Mission in Colombia.

After slowing down for several weeks due to the third wave of COVID and two of our teachers contracting it, we are happy to say our teachers have fully recovered and we're "...full speed ahead".

People arrive at our door daily, hoping that we can squeeze their children into our program. Most have heard from other families that we really do teach and help the kids. But with well over 170 kids enrolled, most of these petitions go onto a waiting list.

God honours your prayers. During our devotional times with the children they thank him for His provision, for The Bridge and its teachers. They regularly pray for those with COVID, ask the Lord to provide food. They pray for their friends and ask God to help them with their homework, I recently asked them if they had noticed that their homework was going better. (I certainly had!) They quickly replied yes. So, we celebrated that the Creator of the Universe is responding to their prayers. It's amazing to consider that!

Profe Janet, who works mostly with our adolescents is plagued with questions from her kids about God, sex and death. They are not easy topics, but they are great opportunities to speak Truth into these children's lives. One girl said, "It's here that I can get answers to all the questions I have." And while Janet replied that she doesn't actually have all the answers, the child still insisted. It's part of building bridges and providing a safe place to learn.

The other day while Janet was buried in trying to get her kids through all their homework, one asked, "How long can we

stay here?" Confused, Janet asked, "You mean today?"

"No. How long are you going to let us come."

Suddenly understanding, Janet replied, "As long as the Lord provides for us to be here, even if you're in university, you can still come to The Bridge."

With a sigh of relief and a thumbs up, the child smiled and went back to work.

I have attached the link for a video we put together for a Vacation Bible School in Calgary who were interested in supporting out efforts. It provides a chance to meet some of our children. Feel free to peruse and enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsQedsPapcs>

Anita Mix  
The Bridge  
BOGOTA KIDS MISSION

To Donate:  
**St. Francis Episcopal Church**  
280 Royal Avenue  
Simi Valley, CA 93065

Please indicate in the memo that it is for Bogota Kids



## DOK RETREAT

The Dates have been set for the 2022 Women's Retreat! March 25, 26, 27!  
Contact Leslie Lonergan or Pat Udell for Details.

Go to [smile.amazon.com/ch/95-2558848](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-2558848) and Amazon donates to **St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church every time you order through Amazon.**



## BABY CLOSET

Don't forget the needs of the Baby Closet that is ongoing. Please talk with Gerri Harrington if you have questions. The Baby Closet is collecting DIAPERS SIZE 4,5,6. diapers; baby cream; baby wipes. Stock up each week so you c

help fill the closet with Diapers, Wipes and Baby Cream!

## Parish Prayer Needs:

**Healing:** Barbara, Sylvia, Brody, Avalon, Shantel, Lee, Michael, Megan, Jean, Braydon, Hank, Fr. Steve, Al, Mary, Yvonne, Dee, Jeff, Jim, Bill & Leslie, Jan, David, Lee, Trish, Sue, Tony, Mark, Michele, Eric, Louise, Bob & family, Edith, Howard, Mary, Donna, J.D., Frances, Patrick, Margaret, Beverly, Margie. Alan and Alan's family, Kevin, Eve, Amy.

Experiences become precious memories when shared with dear friends.

Diantha Ain



## NEW OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED THROUGH ST. FRANCIS

Our church members have asked what useful items **The Samaritan Center** can use the most. Your donations go directly to feed the needs of our community. Donations can be brought to church or left at the Sam Center kitchen door. Thank you so much.

Here is a link for much needed items for the Samaritan Center:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/BXFBPE9HRPQR?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/BXFBPE9HRPQR?ref=wl_share)

All shelf-stable goods are helpful, as well as cleaning products and trash bags.

### **PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN WITH...**

- Men's Jeans, shorts waist 30-34
- Men's & Women's work boots
- Men's belts
- Men's t-shirts size M or L
- Unopened/new Men's underwear & socks
- Disposable gloves size L or XL
- Face masks – Disposable
- Clorox wipes & bleach
- Unopened plastic utensils (forks & knives)
- Water bottles (16.9 fl oz)
- Disposable coffee cups(12 oz)
- \$10 Gas Card
- Canned meals (like stew, soups, ravioli, spaghetti'Os)
- Paper Towels
- Grape Jelly For Sandwiches
- Peanut Butter (Creamy) for Sandwiches
- Plastic Forks and Spoons
- Toilet Paper (Septic Safe)
- Gallon And Sandwich Size Ziploc Bags
- Soup Bowls
- 10 oz Coffee Cups

More Information:

<http://www.thesamaritancenterofsimivalley.org>

# OCTOBER

*please be awesome* 

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					8 pm AA PH	
<b>3 Pentecost 19</b> David Kitch Preaching <b>10:15 am Blessing of the Animals,</b> Eucharist with Music  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>4</b>  8 pm Men's AA PH	<b>5</b>  6:30 pm Women PH 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	<b>6</b> 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service  7:30 pm Men's AA PH	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  8 pm AA PH	<b>9</b> .
<b>10 Pentecost 20</b> Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>11</b>  7:30 pm Bible Study with David Kitch 8 pm Men's AA PH	<b>12</b>  6:30 pm Women PH 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	<b>13</b> 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service  6 pm Woodranch HOA 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  8 pm AA PH	<b>16</b>
<b>17 Pentecost 21</b> David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music  5 pm Boots on the Patio 6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>18</b>  8 pm Men's AA PH	<b>19</b>  6:30 pm Women PH 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	<b>20</b> 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service  7:30 pm Men's AA PH	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  8 pm AA PH	<b>23</b>
<b>24 Pentecost 22</b> Bishop Diane, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music, Confirmation  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>25</b>  7:30 pm Bible Study with David Kitch 8 pm Men's AA PH	<b>26</b>  6:30 pm Women PH 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	<b>27</b> 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service  7:30 pm Men's AA PH	<b>28</b>  7 pm Centering Prayer	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31 Pentecost 23</b> Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Noon Bishop's Committee  6:30 Men's AA PH						



# October 2021 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Oct. 3	Oct. 10	Oct. 17	Oct. 24	Oct. 31
<b>10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist</b>					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Susan S.	Bernadette	Ruth H.	Tony F.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Chrissy B.	Chrissy B.	Rueben A.	Eden S.	Chrissy B.
LEM (Chalice)	Lisa N.	David K.	Chrissy B.	David K.	Chrissy B.
Acolyte & Crucifer					
Usher / Greeters	Rebecca	Rebecca S.	Joe Z.	Tony F.	Rebecca
Altar Guild	Chris M.	Chrissy B.	Cathy G.	Ruth H.	Chrissy B.
Home Communion					
Vestry Counters					
Preaching	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Bishop Diane	Rev. Sarah

**If you are unable to serve on the day you are scheduled – please make arrangements with someone else to substitute for you. Please contact the church office to inform them of the changes. Thank you!**

# November 2021 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Nov. 7	Nov. 14	Nov. 21	Nov. 28 Advent 1	Dec. 5 Advent 2
<b>10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist</b>					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Susan S.	Bernadette	Ruth H.	Tony F.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Chrissy B.	Chrissy B.	Rueben A.	Eden S.	Chrissy B.
LEM (Chalice)	Lisa N.	David K.	Chrissy B.	David K.	Chrissy B.
Acolyte & Crucifer					
Usher / Greeters	Rebecca	Rebecca S.	Joe Z.	Tony F.	Rebecca
Altar Guild	Chris M.	Chrissy B.	Cathy G.	Ruth H.	Chris M.
Home Communion					
Vestry Counters					
Preaching	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.



## RECYCLING AT ST FRANCIS

Please bring in your Recycling on the **last Sunday of the month** and we'll put those cans and bottles to good use! Our efforts will help support the needs of a family in our community and will be appreciated. See what glass and metal can do? So mark your calendars now with a big "R" for recycling at the end of the month. Thank you ahead of time for all your contributions!



# *the* Franciscan

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church  
280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065

## Newsletter – October 2021

**TO:**

### **St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church**

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#### **Sunday Service:**

- **10:15 am**

#### **Wednesdays**

- **10 am Healing Service**

#### **October 3**

- **Blessing of the Animals**

#### **October 24**

- **Bishop's Visit**