

# The Franciscan

April 2023

• Diocesan Bishop •

*John Harvey Taylor*

• Our Vicar •

*The Rev. Sarah Kitch*

[stfrancis.simi@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancis.simi@gmail.com)

• The Bishop's Committee •

- *Bishop's Warden*  
*Amy Brown*
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- *Finance*  
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*Cathy Grimes*
- *Service/Outreach*  
*Gerri Harrington*

## From Our Vicar

*"Jesus didn't just happen to be in Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday. Jesus was in Jerusalem on purpose... Jesus came to show us there is another way. The way of unselfish, sacrificial love. That's why he entered Jerusalem. ..."*

... read article on pg. 2

## PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Breakdown of all services and service times – *Let's Celebrate Together!*  
... Pg. 7



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# From Our Vicar...

In an Easter Letter to the church a couple of years ago, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry said:

*Jesus didn't just happen to be in Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday.  
Jesus was in Jerusalem on purpose... Jesus came to show us there is another way.  
The way of unselfish, sacrificial love. That's why he entered Jerusalem.  
That's why he went to the cross. It was the power of that love poured out from the  
throne of God that even after the horror of the crucifixion would raise him from  
death to life. He didn't just happen to be in Jerusalem on that Palm Sunday.  
He went to Jerusalem for a reason.  
To send a message.  
That not even the titanic powers of death can stop the love of God.*

This is our message as Easter People, that not even death can stop the Love of God. We have been given the gift of relationship restored with God, through Jesus, and we are a New People with a song of New Life! Jesus' mission has been fulfilled and we are a Resurrection People that now shout "Alleluhia!!!"

This act of Jesus' life for us was all for LOVE. The Incarnation is the completion of creation, the act of a God whose nature is Love, whose being is about RELATIONSHIP. Love is the reason for Creation, and Christ is the perfect expression of God's love. God relates to creation and expresses that Love! God communicates unconditional love!!! God offers reconciliation and unity with that Love. The Resurrection is all about Love!!!

So, sing out loud church!!!! We are deeply loved and in a GREAT ROMANCE with God and Love! God is singing one unending song, seducing each of our hearts, that we can hear and know how deeply loved we are! May you feel so cherished and renewed this Eastertide as we sing our song loudly, "Alleluhia!"



*Sarah*

We are a Resurrection people and Alleluia is our song. We have been given New Life because of the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and we sing that song of praise everyday in our lives. When we follow the Liturgical Calendar we are given opportunities to mark transitional moments in our lives. As we reflect through the cross, we offer to God our Thanksgiving and Penitence and bring a new resolve and prayer that we might walk closer with God. So it is in Easter Tide, the celebration of the Resurrection in the church. We offer ourselves a new way of life, considering shifting patterns and habits that may be altered. It is always a new day, a new beginning, a new way of life. Thanks be to God.

In *The Book of Joy*, which I would like to highly recommend, the Dalai Lama speaks about meaningfulness in a day's living. When he was asked what was it like to wake up with joy, he replied, "I think if you are an intensely religious believer, as soon as you wake up you thank God for another day. And you try and do God's will. ...As soon as I wake up, I remember the teaching of the importance of kindness and compassion, wishing something good for others. Then I remember everything is interrelated, so I set my intention for the day; that this day should be meaningful. Meaningful means, if possible, serve and help others. If not possible, then at least try not to harm others. That's a meaningful day." That's living a new life, a new way that is given because of God's life given to us. In this Easter Tide, may we find a new way of living with one another. May we seek how to be compassionate to others and give meaning to every day. Amen.

### **Stay Connected With Us!**

- Pastoral Care through the church office (805)526-5141
- Pastoral Care via email [Stfrancis.simi@gmail.com](mailto:Stfrancis.simi@gmail.com)
- Keep up through the St. Francis Website <https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/>
- Sunday Worship In-Person 10:15 AM & Live Streamed - links in the St. Francis Weekly
  - Stay connected through weekly services and activities made available

**Please remember St. Francis with your donations and pledge.**

***Secure online giving available through PayPal:***

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

## Living into the Resurrection

“If you would be wise, ask him who is wisdom? When it is too dark for you to see, seek Christ, for he is the light. Are you sick? Have recourse to him who is both doctor and health. Have no fear whatever of death, for Christ is the life of those who believe. Would you know by whom the world was made and all things are sustained? Believe in him, for his is the arm and right hand. Are you afraid of this or that? Remember that on all occasions he will stand by your side like an angel. If you are afraid that your body is failing and have a dread of death, remember that he is the Resurrection, and can raise up what has fallen.”

-Niceta, 1155-c1217 The Names and Titles of Our Saviour Quoted from Gail Ramshaw's Treasures Old and New: Images in the Lectionary

What a joy to live into the power of Resurrection and to participate as co-creators with God in Kingdom Living. Paul writes in Ephesians, *“By Grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.”*

In the book, Practice Resurrection, by Eugene Peterson, he writes of Paul’s words, saying we are containers of Grace. We are the ones who are filled and holding Grace by God’s great gift through Jesus Christ. Therefore, everything we do as to participating in good works, is how we are giving this Grace away every day. Are you pounding away at a computer? You are spreading Grace from Yourself in the work you are doing. Are you teaching? Are you a scientist? Are you retired? Where ever you find yourself, you can’t help but display Grace Abounding, because you are the container in which Grace is held!

St. Francis holds Grace for all who come, and wants to be overflowing with Grace as it attends each person who finds God’s peace and presence on the grounds, in the Sanctuary, in the Sunday School Building and even in my office! (Here’s to Grace!) How magnificent it is to know as baptized, Resurrection people, we receive this overflowing Grace every day.





We are a Resurrection People and Alleluia is our song!!!

We have just celebrated the highest Feast day of the Christian Church, where we take a week to honor, remember and walk the days of Jesus betrayed, crucified, and resurrected! It is an intense week for the church as we come close to Christ and his life given for us.

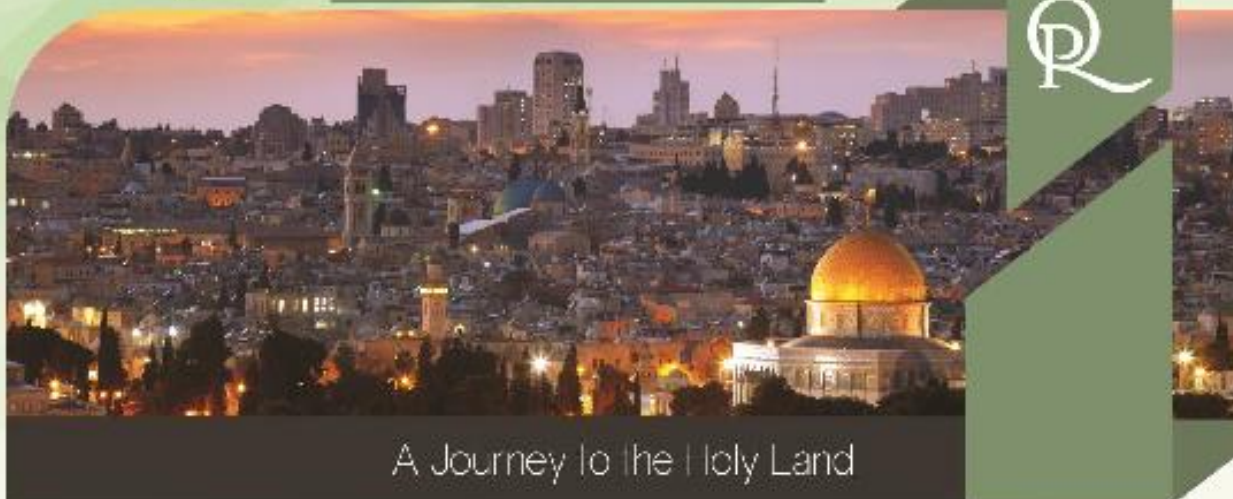
It is also new beginnings! It is the time of nature's cycle of Spring, where we look around and see new blossoms, and flowers urging us to delight and joy. It is new beginnings as we consider the movement of the church. We are now in Eastertide. It is a season of great joy.

I wonder what we will experience at St. Francis in this Resurrection season? Our life of our community is growing and we are blessed with new families that are finding our doors open and welcoming. Are there new avenues for us as a community to consider in worship? In community action and service?

Our church reflects the life of the community and what we discern God is doing among us. What do you sense for St. Francis? As we begin to move from closed doors to open space, shared fellowship, and blessed community we welcome anew God's ever present love and GRACE – GIFT given to us through Jesus Christ! This is all part of Resurrected Living and the community involvement here at St. Francis. We are a Resurrection People and ALLELUHIA is our Song!!!!!!!



QUMRI PILGRIMAGES LTD.



*St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church — Simi Valley, CA*  
*A Journey to The Holy Land*

*Led by The Reverend Sarah Kitch*  
*Local Guide Canon Iyad Qumri & Rami Qumri*  
*12-Days: June 26 - July 8, 2024*

Leaving the United States on Wednesday, June 26.  
Thus, arriving at Ben Gurion in Tel Aviv on Thursday, June 27.  
Departure flight from Ben Gurion will be in the afternoon / evening Monday, July 8.

*June 27- Jul 2 Saint George's Guest House*  
*Jul 2-5 Sisters of Nazareth*  
*Jul 5-8 Saint George's Guest House*

Cost is **\$2850.00** per person based on double occupancy, (add **\$560.00** for a single)  
*Cost includes all land accommodations, bus transportation, breakfast/lunch/dinner, tour guide, most tips, etc. Airfare is not included.*

As of Jan 2023, non-stop airfare is approx. **\$1400.00**/person, round trip, economy.  
A deposit of \$500.00 per person will be collected in or around June of 2023.

*Friends and family are welcome.*  
*Please speak with Rev. Sarah about the physical demands of this tour.*  
*A clipboard will be located at the front of the church, to collect names of those interested, or you can email questions/interest to Rev. Sarah.*

*A follow up meeting of those who have expressed interest will occur in Spring of 2023 – Information to follow.*

# Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter

**Palm Sunday** – *Outside/Procession Inside w Passion Narrative: 10:15 am April 2<sup>nd</sup> with Potluck*

Catholic and Protestant communities celebrate Palm Sunday. (The Orthodox Christian community celebrates later as they follow the Julian calendar – a week later.) This marks the beginning of Holy Week, historically the most sacred time of year for Christians.

Palm Sunday recalls an event in the Christian Scripture (The New Testament) of Jesus entering into Jerusalem and being greeted by the people waving palm branches. (Matthew 21:1-9, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-38, John 12:12-19)

The service on Palm Sunday also includes a reading of the Passion, that is, the story of the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus' death is seen by Christians as salvation and as a reminder of how prophets are often killed when they stand for justice and peace.

## Holy Week

**Holy Thursday** (sometimes referred to as **Maundy Thursday** after the Latin mandatum or command to love one another) is a day when Christians commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus. (*Matthew 26: 17-35, Mark 14: 12-31, Luke 22: 7-23, John 13: 21-30*). In some traditions, there is the washing of the feet of various members of the community to recall a gesture of Christ at the Last Supper when he washed the feet of his disciples. –

**Agape Feast and Maundy Thursday Service at 7 pm April 6<sup>th</sup> Inside**

**Good Friday April 7<sup>th</sup>** is a solemn day on which Christians recall the death of Jesus and its promise of hope and new life. (*Matthew 27: 32-56, Mark 15: 21-41, Luke 23:26-49, John 19: 17-30*).

Other people make the **Stations of the Cross 2:30 pm service** a devotion that recalls the journey of Jesus on the Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrows) in Jerusalem to Calvary where he was crucified. (In Jerusalem the place of Christ's death and resurrection is commemorated inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.)

**Easter -10:15am Outside Service followed by Egg Hunt, Kids' fun and Easter Brunch Everyone Welcome**

Easter Sunday is the greatest feast in the Christian calendar. While our society puts a major emphasis on Christmas, no other day is traditionally as sacred for the Christian community as Easter. This is the day Christians commemorate the resurrection of Christ. (*Matthew 28:1-15, Mark 1: 1-8, Luke 24:1-12, John 20: 1-10*).

In some traditions, the services begin the night before with the lighting of a new fire and the blessing of a large Easter candle. Water is blessed and many are baptized. But for all Christians, this is a day to renew one's faith.

Easter usually ends with festive celebrations with special foods and Easter delicacies



### Coming Up:

- Palm Sunday and Potluck Luncheon
- Holy Week : Maundy Thursday, Good Friday Stations of the Cross
- Easter Sunday, Egg Hunt and Easter Brunch
- Music Festival May 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6 PM



## Parish Prayer Needs:

**Healing:** Barbara, Sylvia, Brody, Avalon, Shantel, Lee, Michael, Kim, 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 family, Kevin, Eve, Amy, Judy, Bernadette, Arianna, Pam, Sammie, Gerri, Steven, John, Tiffany, Leo, David, Henry, Cheryl, Ana, Susan.

## St. Francis Book Club

Anyone who would like to join should contact:  
Chris M at 805.276.4971



**Amazon Smile ended Feb 28<sup>th</sup>.**  
Thank you to all who participated during the partnership between St Francis and Amazon.

*The art of living  
Takes a bright palette, bold strokes  
And good perspective.*

*-Haiku by Diantha Ain*

*Line Dancing on the patio  
Mondays @ 5:30pm*

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**Music Festival**

**Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup> @6:00 PM**

On the Patio-Live Music  
with the Mad Hatters & FOOD!

## BABY CLOSET

Don't forget the needs of the Baby Closet -

The Baby Closet is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-11am.

They are collecting

**DIAPERS SIZE 4,5,6,7**

and have a continual Need for **BABY WIPES** and helping hands.

Please connect with Gerri H. if you are able to help with these needs or Volunteer - **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.**

**In observance of Good Friday,  
Next ECW Meeting will be  
Monday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm.**

Contact Sylvia Moya for more details.





# April 2023 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	April 2	April 9	April 16	April 23	April 30
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Chrissy B.	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Russ W.	Reuben A.	Suzanne L.	Peggy S.	Gerri H.
LEM	Lisa N. Tracy H.	Rob W. Kristin W. Tracy H.	Chrissy B.	Tracy H.	Rob W. Kristin W.
Usher / Greeter	Reuben A. Roger P.	Reuben A. Tony F.	Joe Z.	Rebecca S	Tony F.
Altar Guild	Chrissy B. Tracy H.	Chrissy B. Tracy H.	Cathy G.	Tracy H.	Chris M.
Preaching	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah

# May 2023 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28	
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo. H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Tony F.	Suzanne L.	Peggy S.	Gerri H.	
LEM	Lisa N.	Chrissy B.	Tracy H.	Rob W. Kristin W.	
Usher / Greeter	Joe Z.	Tony F.	Rebecca S.	Tony F.	
Altar Guild	Cathy G.	Chrissy B.	Tracy H.	Chrissy B.	
Preaching	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah	

**Please let the Church Office know if you are unable to serve on your scheduled day. Thank you for Serving!**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2 Palm Sunday</b>  <b>10:15 am Eucharist with Music</b>  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>3</b>  5:30 Line Dancing  8 pm Men's AA	<b>4</b>  Baby Closet 10-11  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH 8 pm Women AA	<b>5</b> <b>10 am Healing &amp; Eucharist Service</b>  7:30 pm AA PH	<b>6 Maundy Thursday</b> Baby Closet 10-11 <b>7pm Agape Feast</b>  7 pm NA Clare Rm	<b>7 Good Friday</b> 9am Exercise  <b>2:30 Stations of the Cross</b>  7 pm AA PH	<b>8</b>
<b>9 Easter Sunday</b> David Kitch, Preaching <b>10:15 am Eucharist with Music</b>  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>10</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>  5:30 Line Dancing  8 pm Men's AA	<b>11</b>  <b>Office Closed</b> Baby Closet 10-11  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH 8 pm Women AA	<b>12</b>  <b>Office Closed</b> <b>No Healing &amp; Eucharist Service</b>  7:30 pm AA PH	<b>13</b>  <b>Office Closed</b> Baby Closet 10-11  7 pm NA Clare Rm 6 pm WR. HOA	<b>14</b>  9am Exercise  7 pm AA PH	<b>15</b>  <b>11:00 am Memorial Service and Reception for Joshua Enright (Joy Craig's Son)</b>
<b>16</b> Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching <b>10:15 am Eucharist with Music</b>  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>17</b>  5:30 Line Dancing  8 pm Men's AA	<b>18</b>  Baby Closet 10-11  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA 8 pm Women AA	<b>19</b> <b>10 am Healing &amp; Eucharist Service</b>  7:30 pm AA PH	<b>20</b>  Baby Closet 10-11  7 pm NA Clare Rm	<b>21</b>  9am Exercise  7 pm AA PH	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> David Kitch Preaching <b>10:15 am Eucharist with Music</b>  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>24</b>  5:30 Line Dancing  8 pm Men's AA	<b>25</b>  Baby Closet 10-11  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH 8 pm Women AA	<b>26</b> <b>10 am Healing &amp; Eucharist Service</b>  7:30 pm AA PH	<b>27</b>  Baby Closet 10-11  7 pm NA Clare Rm	<b>28</b>  9am Exercise  7 pm AA PH	<b>29</b>  <b>Private Event</b>
<b>30</b> Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching <b>10:15 am Eucharist with Music</b>  6:30 Men's AA PH						



# The Franciscan

## Newsletter – April 2023

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church  
280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065  
Phone 805.526.5141  
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TO:



### Sunday Service:

10:15 am

### Wednesday Service:

10:00 am Healing

### Holy Week Schedule-

#### **Palm Sunday:**

10:15 am Outside & Inside Service

*Potluck Lunch on the Patio after Service*

#### **Maundy Thursday:**

7:00 pm Agape Feast and Service

#### **Good Friday:**

2:30 pm Stations of the Cross

#### **Easter Sunday:**

10:15 am Service Outside

*Egg Hunt, Kid's Fun and Brunch after Service*