



The Franciscan



April 2024

● **Diocesan Bishop** ●

The Rt Rev John Taylor

● **Our Vicar** ●

The Rev. Sarah Kitch
stfrancis.simi@gmail.com

● **The Bishop's Committee** ●

- *Bishop's Warden*
Amy Brown
- *Junior Warden*
Dan McCarty
- *Finance*
Sam Anusiem
- *Clerk*
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- *Communications*
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- *Pastoral Care*
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Gerri Harrington
- *Worship*
Chris McCarty

From Our Vicar...

Every year we proclaim this Festival Day. Every year we say we are a resurrection people and Alleluia is our song. Every year we enter the triumphal victory of life over death and let that change our lives.

Every year, the question is, does it change my life? Does it make a difference? Does this journey that we have embodied through Lent and Holy Week, make some demarcation – a line in the sand if you will – in our attitudes, our thinking, our behavior, our spiritual practices?

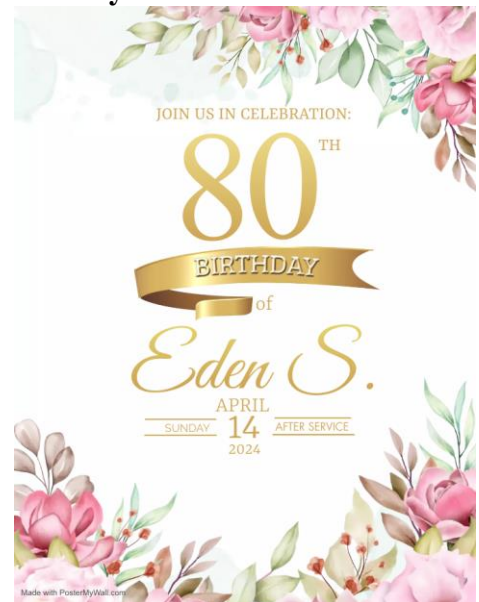
... Read Article on pg.2

Join us in Celebrating Eden's 80th Birthday

We will celebrate Eden S. following Sunday service on April 14th.

Please join us in honoring Eden on this special day.

We will celebrate with light refreshments & CAKE! All are invited and welcome to come.



Published monthly by St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church

280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065

Email: stfrancis.simi@gmail.com

www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org

office- 805.526.5141

fax- 805.520.3819

From Our Vicar...

We are God's Poeme, a work of art, as Paul writes in Ephesians. We are created in God's image and participating in the Divine Reconciliation of God's Love for the Cosmos, through Christ our Lord. We are a Resurrection people, called into relationship and restoration with God and God's Creation. Every one of us. All Creation. Then as in every good relationship, when we know we are deeply loved and known, as God knows us and loves us – we want to participate in the goodness of that relationship through our life.

And that's what Easter is all about. We have walked through the humanity of Jesus as Jesus understands all human elements of pain, suffering, loss, hurt, deprivation, and despair. The life of Jesus that was fulfilled conquered all that plus death. We are free and we can sing, Alleluia, because we know resurrection and life that is given to us eternally. Now, and now, and now.

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Every year, the question is, does it change my life? Does it make a difference? Does this journey that we have embodied through Lent and Holy Week, make some demarcation – a line in the sand if you will – in our attitudes, our thinking, our behavior, our spiritual practices?

How? How does that make a change? When things are weighing us down, do we let ourselves be lifted by the promises of God's love around us? Life will be lived through challenges and joys, sorrows, and celebrations. How are we choosing to live our life when we are facing challenges and not celebrations? Does resurrection make a difference for us?

I hope so. God has walked through humanity in Godself, taking on the form of being human, to enter deep understanding and explicit experience, to be with us. God has brought forth the experience of Jesus' life and death and resurrection, for us to know what it means to truly be alive. The promise of an abundant life, freed of our own condemnation and jubilant that we are released to be all that we are created to be.

Then, as this reconciliation is experienced in our relationship with God, we participate in the goodness of God and God's redemptive love in all we do. It means we want to tell others they too are a work of art, God's beauty, and they too are given life to be lived abundantly. It means that we are in service to others, serving all creation and caring for our beloved planet, caring for and creating opportunities for those yet to come. It means that we are alive to possibilities of what God might have for us around the next corner, the next day, the next moment. We live expectantly, blessed by the possibilities of what is yet to come, and what already has occurred.

That's why we sing Alleluia and proclaim we are a resurrection people. Let us say "Yes" to this dance that the Spirit invites us to and this year, let it make a difference. Alleluia.

"I won't take no for an answer," God began to say to me when He opened His arms each night wanting us to dance." Catherine of Siena



Why do you look for the living among the dead?” This is the poignant question the “men in dazzling clothes” ask the women who have come to Jesus’s tomb with their spices. It is a question well worth asking ourselves. Why do we look for the living among? the dead? The women didn’t even find the dead in the tomb — it was empty.

The emptiness encountered by the women at the tomb strikes deeper than death. To death, one can respond with tears and wailing, with anointing and spices, with funeral processions and eulogies. To emptiness there is no response. When emptiness takes over, the core of one’s humanness disintegrates.

One is no longer capable of despair, for despair implies the presence of enough hope to feel its loss. Emptiness is the ultimate threat to religious faith. Each of us has within ourselves a tomb into which we have placed something that perhaps originally was most dear to us but now, as far as we are concerned, is dead. Maybe it’s a failed marriage, a broken friendship, an emotionally distant child or parent. Maybe it is our own tomb, in which lodges something we want to be dead, a sense of shame, or greed, or self-centeredness. Or perhaps it is, in fact, Jesus’s tomb and we’ve placed him in it because, deep in our minds, we really don’t know what to make of the Christian story, and so we bury Jesus in this tomb and seal the opening shut with a huge stone and try to continue our lives, pretending everything is fine, thank you very much.

We are supported and even encouraged to guard our tombs by our own society and culture. We have developed incredible resurrection resistance. We have a kind of Easter evasion in our culture. We can handle it ourselves. We don’t need help. We can take care of life on our own terms. We have gotten used to our “un-freedoms” — the ways in which our tombs actually bind us — and their attendant pain has become our friend. So we lose sight of what is possible in our lives. We lose sight of the fact that persons, places, and things can bind us. Instead we choose to live with brokenness and loneliness. We lose sight of the potential that is ours. How do we move from this stuck place? How do we begin to claim the good news of Jesus’s resurrection? Claiming the good news, claiming the resurrection, making the resurrection ours as well as Jesus’s means that we go on a journey to our own tombs, not knowing exactly what we will find. In Mark’s Gospel, on their way to the tomb the women ask, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?” They knew they couldn’t do it themselves, but that didn’t stop them from going to the tomb to anoint Jesus’s body. They went anyway. They kept asking. They kept walking. They had a problem they could not solve, a stone they could not move, and yet they continued on their journey.

We have a partnership with God. God is with us. We need to trust that partnership, claim that relationship, and continue walking toward the tomb. To walk willingly to the tomb, acknowledging the stones, acknowledging our brokenness with God and others, is to walk toward health.

We go to the tomb knowing that what it holds represents death — or, even worse, emptiness. We go to that tomb because things sometimes have to die in order for us to live more fully. We have to let go of certain things so that their binding power over us can be released.

In all of the gospels, when the women arrived at the tomb that morning, God had already acted.

The stone was already rolled back and Jesus had already risen and stepped forward with all of the light, life, love, and power of God. And the stone was not moved so that the Risen Jesus could get out. The stone was moved so that those women, and each of us, can step in and see that Jesus is not there, that Jesus has risen.

Now, therefore, we can live without worry, fight without surrender, suffer without despair, love without limits, and die without fear, knowing that there is no stone in us or outside of us that can stop us from rising with Christ and living through the resurrection power of our God. And that, as they say, is certainly good news!

Written by Bishop Mary Glasspool

Getting to know you . . . and each other

St. Francis is much more than a congregation. It's a group of individuals in a fellowship . . . a community . . . a family. As family members it would be great to know each other better and share what is going on in each of our busy lives.

So, briefly tell us what's happening with you and your family --- your births, family weddings, job promotions, graduations, new jobs, vacations, accomplishments, life events . . . you name it and we'd like to share it in the monthly "Franciscan".

Just e-mail your happenings to Doug at stfrancis.simi@gmail.com and let's get to know each other better!

Stay Connected With Us!

- Pastoral Care through the church office (805)526-5141
- Pastoral Care via email 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>

Parish Healing Prayer Needs:

Barbara, Reina, Sylvia, Brody, Avalon, Shantel, Scott, Lee, Michael, Kim, Jean, Braydon, Fr. Steve, Al, Mary, Yvonne, Dee, Jeff, Jim, Bill & Leslie, Jamie, Jan, David, Lee, Trish, Sue, Tony, Mark, Michele, Eric, Louise, Bob & family, Edith, Howard, Mary, Donna, J.D., Frances, Patrick, Margaret, Beverly, Margie, Alan, Kevin, Eve, Amy, Judy, Bernadette, Arianna, Pam, Sammie, Gerri, Steven, John, Tiffany, Leo, David, Henry, Cheryl, Ana, Susan, Peggy.

SAVE THE DATES FOR MAY:

*May 4th - Labyrinth Day
May 5th - ECW Fiesta -Cinco de Mayo
May 11th - 30th Anniversary Tea
May 12th - Mothers' Day
May 19th - Pentecost
May 26th - Music Festival*

ECW – Episcopal Church Women
Please contact Sylvia M. or Pat U. if interested. Meetings held once a month in the sanctuary.

Interested in Joining a Book Club?

Contact Chris McCarty for details.

4th Sunday of the Month

Please bring your diapers, wipes, and baby toiletries in support of the Baby Closet and their needs. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, please speak with Gerri Harrington or Rev Sarah.

The Baby Closet is open weekly Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 am – 11am

A few RECYCLING reminders: Did you know? - St Francis has bins available for composting, grease and food waste in between the trash bins located in the kitchen island. These bins are also available to take home and reuse if you would like.

We also have once a month collection of CRV recycling on the 4th Sunday of the month. We make available separate waste bins for: glass, plastic and aluminum that are CRV recycling, in addition to separate waste bins for recyclable items that are not CRV redeemable.

In honor of Earth Day on the 22nd of this month, let us all be mindful in consciously caring for God's extraordinary creation we call home. We can make an impact.

April 2024 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28	
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Reuben A.	Suzanne L.	Chrissy B.	Gerri H.	
LEM	Tracy H. Evie M.	Lisa N.	Kerri-Jo H.	Chrissy B.	
Usher / Greeter	Ted W.	Reuben A.	Joe Z.	Rebecca S	
Altar Guild	Tracy H.	Cathy G.	Chrissy B.	Chris M.	
Preaching	<i>Supply Priest -</i> Rev. Nancy Brown	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.	

May 2024 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26	
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Reuben A.	Suzanne L.	Chrissy B.	Gerri H.	
LEM	Tracy H. Evie M.	Kerri-Jo.	Lisa N.	Chrissy B.	
Usher / Greeter	Ted W.	Reuben A.	Joe Z.	Rebecca S	
Altar Guild	Tracy H.	Cathy G.	Chrissy B.	Gerri H.	
Preaching	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.	

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

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Samaritan Dinner 8 pm Men's AA	2 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	3 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	4 Baby Closet 10-11 7pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm 6 pm H.H. HOA	5 5:30 pm ECW MTG Sanctuary 8 pm AA PH	6
7 Rev. Nancy Brown, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH 2-5 Mtg Clare Rm	8 8 pm Men's AA	9 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	10 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	11 Baby Closet 10-11 7pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm 6 pm H.H. HOA	12 8 pm AA PH	13
14 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music EDEN's 80th Birthday 6:30 Men's AA PH	15 8 pm Men's AA	16 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm	17 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 6 pm W.R. HOA 7:30 pm AA PH	18 Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	19 8 pm AA PH	20
21 Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	22 EARTH DAY 8 pm Men's AA	23 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	24 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	25 Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	26 8 pm AA PH	27
28 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	29 8 pm Men's AA	30 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH				

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Newsletter – April 2024

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
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TO:



Join Us:

- ◆ Sunday Service: 10:15 am
- ◆ Wednesdays:
10 am Healing Service