

The Franciscan



The Bishop's Committee

From our Vicar... December 2016



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With great Thanksgiving we enter into Advent and the coming of the Christ, Jesus born in Bethlehem, as we follow a guiding star to bring us to his place of birth.

What gifts will we bring this child this year?

During Advent, the time of waiting, will we reflect on what may be different in our lives with the coming of this birth?

Can it be a gift of love to all around us, as we stand in the stable and see this sleeping baby?

May we extend our hands to one another and find within us the courage to be united because Love Came Down At Christmas to all.

Let us renew an active commitment to Peace on earth, and shining light that has come to be among us all.

In a time that desperately needs our love and attention, even as the time of Jesus' birth in the turmoil of Roman oppression and control, may we herald the song of the angels and bring forth good news for all, Christ is Born, and goodwill to all humankind.



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Our New Events Coordinator

I am a 47 year old husband to Sylvia and father of 13 year old twins Frank and Monica.

My parents moved to Simi Valley in 1971 so I have lived in this wonderful valley nearly my entire life.

In elementary and middle school I attended Indian Hills Academy on Sinaloa just up the street where a church now occupies. Then in High School I attended Lutheran High School that was located in the Greek tract, graduating in 1987.

My wife Sylvia and I attended Lutheran High School together in 1987 where we went on our first date; I thought the date was a flop though and never asked her out again.

Six years later we accompanied friends on a night out where we rekindled our relationship and were married in 1997.

All the schools I attended growing up have all gone out of business unfortunately. I hope that is no reflection on the quality of my education!

My kids now attend Valley View middle school where my son plays basketball and my daughter plays volleyball.

Earlier this year I finished school for counseling at The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology and now am the director of Hope Coming Ministries where

we offer personal and group counseling to the community.

Finally, I am grateful and excited to be a part of the St Francis community. I have relished getting to know everyone here and look forward to knowing you all better. Blessings.

Frank Tomlinson
Event's Coordinator



Stewardship, Time, Talents and Treasure

We have recently sent out our Pledge Cards for the year 2017. It is marvelous that we continue to live into the growth of St. Francis each year and see developments and new life here as a community. We are a Resurrection People and Alleluia is our song!

We are a place of refuge and hope for so many. We are a sanctuary for young and old. We are a haven for people to find calm and restoration in their lives.

Please participate with the goodness of God this year by filling out your Pledge Card and commit to join others to see the work of God fulfilled here at St. Francis. Whether you are new to the church or have been here for many years, let us ALL contribute to this ministry.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Reverend Sarah, or Craig McGuire, our Stewardship Chairperson.

"God of Abundance, we thank you for St. Francis and the health of this community in its ministry as we seek to be a place of love and hope to those of Simi Valley and surrounding area. May we be faithful stewards of what you have given to us, that we may participate in the 2kingdom work of the promise of your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."



**JAZZ VESPERS
DECEMBER 4 AT 6 PM**

There are so many opportunities for us to be touched by God and blessed by one another. The first Sunday at 6 PM in the beginning of Advent is one of those times. Jazz Vespers comes to us each year for us to enter into the Advent Season with rich anticipation for the Christ Child's birth. Derek Silbermann will be bringing his wonderful musicians to us as we enter into a candlelit service of Vesper light. There will be a reception afterwards with goodies and surprises for all. Let's plan on making this Advent special as we join together for Jazz Vespers on December 4 at 6 PM. See you there!!!

Silent Auction and Raffle

Donations and Volunteers Needed!

Our St. Francis Tradition of Jazz Vespers continues in December. This community event has become a highlight to start the Advent Season. The evening concludes with appetizers and fellowship along with our Silent Auction and Raffle.

We are in need of volunteers:

- Two to sell Raffle and 50/50 tickets to our guests
- One to man a table to sell Christmas ornaments and our Custom Cards
- To help set up after the service on Dec 4th!

Donations are needed for the raffle and silent auction:

- Goods or Services
- Gift Cards – Meals, Movies, Stores
- Items to be used for the Raffle

Please contact Dale Heckler

@ Abacodale@aol.com or leave a message @ [805-582-0287](tel:805-582-0287) with any questions or donations!



VICAR'S TEA

Rev. Sarah and David Kitch will be honored with your presence at the annual St. Francis Vicar's Christmas Tea,

Sunday December 11th hosted by the Butlers.

5-8pm at Tom and Kathy Butler's house,
3097 Divernon Ave. Simi Valley,
home phone [805-581-4256](tel:805-581-4256).

All are welcome, please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Come join for some Christmas Joy!



CHRISTMAS IS COMING

This year Christmas Eve is on Saturday December 24, and Christmas is on Sunday December 25! That means there will be a Christmas Service at St. Francis at 10:15 for all who wish to attend.

Our Christmas Eve Services will be at 5:30 and 10:00. Our 5:30 service will feature instrumental jazz selections throughout the service. Our 10:00 service will be a traditional Christmas Eve Service.

Please let your family and loved ones know about these three options for Christmas.

Taize Advent Services



Starting December 6 and continuing
December 13 and 20th,
7:00 – 7:30 pm
All are welcome to join during this
Advent Season.

Esther and Brainerd Dharmaraj will
lead the service through meditation
and quiet reflection during the
Advent Season. Give yourself a
break and come to relax and
decompress the holiday rush.

Look for the Angel Tree



The angel tree is up and ready for
distribution!!!

Each year we put up our tree in the narthex
to collect money for the Samaritan Center's
Christmas present. This year we hope we
can purchase another washing machine for
them with our donations.

The Angel Tree is festooned with colorful
angels for you to take one, put \$20 on an
angel, put it in the offering plate, and hang
the other angel back on the tree. Hopefully
by Christmas our Angel Tree will be flying
away with the angels extolling the birth of
our Lord.

You're Invited So Save the Date!



Fr. Steve and Dorrie Dean
Invite you to attend their
50th Wedding Anniversary
Celebration

To be held Friday,
December 30, 2016,
from 6-9 P.M.

Beer, wine, and tapas on the
St. Francis Patio.

Smokin' Steve is catering
And
Derek Silberman is providing
the music.

No gifts. Just join us for the
celebration!

Please R.S.V.P. so we'll know
how much food to order.

dorriedean@att.net or
805 236-5247



Community Program Ralphs Grocery Store

St. Francis has 2 household supporters who shopped at **Ralphs** between **6-1-2016** and **8-31-2016** (Cycle 16, Qtr 4) have contributed to St. Francis receiving **\$39.05** total donation. St. Francis will be receiving a Kroger check in this amount within 30 days from 9-21-2016.

If you have any questions or to sign up, even if you don't shop at Ralphs every week every time you go you can still help. Please email: community.programs@ralphs.com or visit our website at www.ralphs.com.
NPO #80992

Thank you for your continued support of your local Ralphs store.

Time shared with a friend
Creates intimate moments
For each to treasure.

Diantha Ain



Womens' Retreat 2017

Calling all women of St. Francis! Our next retreat is scheduled for the first weekend in March 2017.

Mark your calendar for March 3 -5 to join us for a relaxing, inspirational, fun-filled weekend. There are many women from St. Francis (and friends and family) who have joined us in the past and have returned to partake of the time away to relax and rejuvenate.

We will be returning to La Casa de Maria in Montecito; the property is beautiful and there is lots of free time to explore the grounds and all of its features.

Friday night dinner is provided as well as 3 meals on Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. More information will be provided as we get closer to the retreat date or you can ask Pat Udell, Kathy Butler or Carol Greene if you would like more specifics.

The cost will be \$265.00 for the entire weekend, including lodging(3 women per room) and all of the meals.

We will have a sign up sheet starting in October and you can secure a spot by providing a \$100.00 deposit.

The remainder of the balance will not need to be paid until February. We look forward to seeing you there!

Parish Prayer Needs:

Please keep the Perry Family in prayer.

Music Program: Pray for more regular singers.

Healing: Jean, Braydon (baby born with half a heart), Hank, Fr. Steve, Al, Mary, Rich, Yvonne, VanNessa, Dee, Jeff, Jim,

Jan, David, Margie, Jan, Lee, Trish, Sue, the wife of Wayne, Tony, Mark, Michele, Eric, Louise, Jean, Tony, Bob & family, Edith, Rana, Howard, Mary, Donna, J.D. Frances B., Patrick, Margaret.

For Comfort: George and the Schneider family. Suzanne Mudge and family. Conti Family. Janet, Patricia and family. Barbara Haryn. Donna Shiver.

For all who find the holidays difficult, because of loss or hardship.

Members and News

ECW

Episcopal Church Women



The ECW will be going on a tour of the Hillside Orphanage in Pasadena in the springtime, possibly March or April. Anyone interested in joining us, please contact Sylvia Moya, 522-2897.

There will be an ECW meeting in December on the 1st Friday of every month in the church at 6:30. We would love to have you join us.

Sylvia Moya



DOK

Daughter of the King

DOK is making Pocket Prayer Cloths. These are another way to access prayer and comfort. They are small enough to fit into a pocket or purse, and can be taken to the hospital or carried for constant comfort. These can be found in a basket in the Narthex.

Please do not forget to turn in your Pledge Cards for 2017!

**We now have WiFi in the Church!
Contact the church office for the username and password.**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bless those that are new to the congregation. Make yourselves known and welcome:

- Linda & Darlene Lucas
- Karen Varela
- Kirsten Thorne



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	2 Office Closed 8 pm AA Church	3
4 Advent 2 10:15 am Eucharist with Music & Sunday School 6 pm Jazz Vespers 6:30 Men's AA PH	5 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 8 pm Men's AA PH	6 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 6:30 pm Men's Group 7 pm Taize Service 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	7 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 12:30 pm Sam Center Brd Mtg 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	8 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	9 Office Closed 8 pm AA Church	10
11 Advent 3 10:15 Eucharist with Music & Sunday School 11:15 am Hi/College Bible Class 5 pm Vicar's Christmas Tea 6:30 Men's AA PH	12 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 8 pm Men's AA PH	13 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm Taize Service 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	14 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	15 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	16 Office Closed 8 pm AA Church	17
18 Advent 4 10:15 Eucharist with Music & Sunday School Belize Collection Noon BC Meeting 6:30 Men's AA PH	19 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Franciscan Articles Due 8 pm Men's AA PH	20 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm Taize Service 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	21 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	22 Office Closed	23 Office Closed 8 pm AA Church	24 Christmas Eve 5:30 Service of Giving 10 pm Traditional Service
25 Nativity of Jesus 10:15 Eucharist with Music Recycling 6:30 Men's AA PH	26 Office Closed 8 pm Men's AA PH	27 Office Closed 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	28 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	29 9am-2pm Office Hrs.	30 6 pm Fr. Steve & Dorrie Dean's 50th Anniversary Party 8 pm AA Sam Ctr.	31

NEW OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED THROUGH ST. FRANCIS



Want to be involved with the Samaritan Center, Joe Zepf has been part of a Men’s Mentoring Program offering everything from help in filling out forms, to a listening ear. Talk with Joe about the various opportunities that are available as we partner our mission and ministry with the Samaritan Center. <http://thesamaritancenterofsimivalley.org/>

Our church members have asked what useful items **The Samaritan Center** can use the most. All shelf-stable goods are helpful, as well as cleaning products and trash bags. In particular, the Kitchen is always in need for the following for daily lunches given to clients:

- **Juice or any Beverages in Pouches**
- Peanut Butter**
- **Jelly (grape, strawberry, any kind for sandwiches)**
- Lunch Bags**

Update of Needs for the Samaritan Center. . . Back Packs. Men’s Jeans and larger men’s tennis shoes. Eggs, Milk, Trash bags: tall kitchen size and 45 gallon; napkins, aluminum foil, Styrofoam soup bowls, ammonia, bleach and tube socks for men and toilet paper. 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



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!



St. Francis Coffee Hour Schedule

December 2016

	4	11	18	25	
10am	DOK				

January 2017

	1	8	15	22	29
10am					

Our coffee hour is a tradition of spending a few minutes together after our worship to connect and say hello to each other. All are invited because the “feeling of belonging” is for everyone to enjoy! It’s a blessing to host this time to refresh ourselves before we return to the “busyness” of the world.

December 2016 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Dec. 4	Dec. 11	Dec. 18	Dec. 25 Christmas	Jan. 1, 2017
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Shantel K.	Joy C.	Ginny M.		Tom B.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Dan J.	Esther D.	Ken S.		Kathy B.
LEM (Chalice)	Brainerd & Esther D.	David K. David S.	Bernadette S. David S.	Rob & Kristen W.	Tom & Kathy B.
Acolyte & Crucifer	Brenda Grace	Emma Rachel Andrew	Grace Esther	Andrew	Brian Wesley Andrew
Usher / Greeters	Tony F. Rebecca S.	Tony F. Rebecca S.	Tony F. Rebecca S.	Tony F.	Joe Z.
Altar Guild	Megan A.	Megan A.	Teri M.	Ginny K.	Kathy B. Joy C.
Home Communion	Jan J.	Brainerd & Esther D	Jan J.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Tom & Kathy B.
Vestry Counters	Kathy B. Susan S.	Amy R. Susan S.	Kathy B. Cathy G.	Amy B. Susan S.	

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!

January 2017 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Jan. 1 2017	Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Jan. 29
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Tom B.	Shantel K.	Ginny M.	Susan S.	Tom B.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Kathy B.	Dan J.	Ken S.	Grace R.	Kathy B.
LEM (Chalice)	Tom & Kathy B.	Ken S. Esther D.	Bernedette S. David S.	Rob & Kristen W.	Tom & Kathy B.
Acolyte & Crucifer	Brian Wesley Andrew	Brenda Grace	Grace Esther	Andrew Esther	Brian Wesley Andrew
Usher / Greeters	Joe Z.	Tony F. Rebecca S.	Tony F. Rebecca S.	David S. Jr. Tony F.	Joe Z.
Altar Guild	Kathy B. Joy C.	Megan A.	Teri M.	Ginny K.	Kathy B. Joy C.
Home Communion	Tom & Kathy B.	Jan J.	Jan J.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Tom & Kathy B.
Vestry Counters					

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!



Jazz Vespers



Sunday, December 4 @ 6 pm
St Francis Episcopal Church
280 Royal Ave, Simi Valley

Join us as we usher in the season of Advent with a rhythm of evening prayer

Silent Auction

Benefiting St. Francis ministries will be held
throughout the evening service



Come celebrate Advent at the Jazz Vespers
followed by Silent Auction and refreshments

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the Franciscan

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

Newsletter – December 2016

TO:

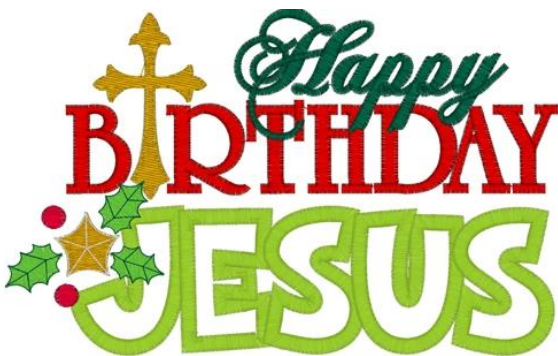
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Sunday Service:

- **Eucharist with Music**
10:15 am

Christmas Eve:

- **5:30 pm Service of Giving**
- **10 pm Traditional Service**

Christmas Day

- **10:15 am Eucharist with Music**

Wednesdays

- **10 am Healing Service**