

# The Franciscan



## The Bishop's Committee

## From our Vicar... December 2018



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*"Make ready for the Christ  
 Whose smile, like lightning  
 Sets free to song of everlasting glory  
 That now sleeps in your paper flesh  
 Like dynamite." Thomas Merton*

Advent is the season of waiting, expectancy, the sense of coming. The coming of the Promised Messiah that had been prophesied centuries before, through the writings of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, and Zechariah. "Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem. Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he." The Hebrew Bible continually reflects the story of God's ever-present promise that indeed the Messiah will come. So, we are in the season of such expectancy, such anticipation.

In these days, please journey with St. Francis through Sunday Services and Taize Services in the week, as we share this anticipated glory of God Incarnate, born among us. The cornerstone of our Christian Faith is the life of Christ, as he was born to us and brought the light to all humankind. We join together to see the light, to experience the light together, and to be born anew ourselves, as we receive our expectant Savior. Welcome Christ this season in our midst with open arms and lives as we are awakened to Christ coming to us, whose smile is like lightning and is ready to awaken our lives with glory and power.



*Sarah Kitch*



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## TAIZÉ SERVICES DURING ADVENT EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 7:00

The Taizé Community is an [ecumenical monastic order](#) in [Taizé, Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy, France](#). It is composed of more than one hundred brothers, from [Catholic](#) and [Protestant](#) traditions, who originate from about thirty countries across the world. The community has become one of the world's most important sites of Christian [pilgrimage](#). Over 100,000 young people from around the world make pilgrimages to Taizé each year for prayer, Bible study, sharing, and communal work. Through the community's ecumenical outlook, they are encouraged to live in the spirit of kindness, simplicity and reconciliation.

The community, though Western European in origin, has sought to include people and traditions worldwide. They have sought to demonstrate this in the music and prayers where songs are sung in many languages, and have included [chants](#) and [icons](#) from the [Eastern Orthodox](#) tradition. The music emphasizes simple phrases, usually lines from [Psalms](#) or other pieces of [Scripture](#), repeated and sometimes also sung in canon.

We will be offering Taizé services every Wednesday through Advent to allow ourselves a pause and rest in the midst of the busy holiday season. Services are at 7:00 without Eucharist. This service offers some time to take some quiet and reflection upon the meaning of our lives and the Advent of Christmas. All are welcome to each service Wednesday, December 5, 12, 19.



## Greening of the Church December 16



**6:00 pm Christmas Eve**



**10:00 pm Traditional Candlelight  
Mass**

**Everyone is invited!  
Mark your calendar  
January 27, 2019**

**The St. Francis Annual  
Congregational Meeting**  
**It is time that we hear about the  
growth of St. Francis from the  
previous year, and where we are  
going in the year ahead.**

**Note to the Bishop's Committee**  
Articles for the Annual Report are  
due, January 14 for the  
January 27, 2019  
Congregation Meeting



## CHRISTMAS FOR THE SAMARITAN CENTER

This year we will again be raising money for the Samaritan Center as we give our contributions for the Angel Tree.

It is the hope for the Center this year to purchase a refrigerator. It will be a wonderful gift for our ministry for the Samaritan Center and all they do for the needs of our community.

Please give generously as we move with gratitude from Thanksgiving of all that we have, to give to those who may not have as much.

What a joy to express our Thanksgiving to God through this opportunity.



### AmazonSmile

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization, St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church.

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.*

## Labyrinth Walk December 12 5 pm



### All are welcome!

The labyrinth is a path for prayer and meditation. Collect yourself before you start. Sit and rest along the low wall for a while. Walk around the outside once. Think of different people, events, situations, places or things in your life to develop a specific intention if you wish to use one in your meditation. Get centered.

There are two common ways of walking. The way of silence and the way of image. In choosing the way of silence it might be helpful to focus on your breathing. The way of image might be done by reciting a prayer or a name for God over and over to yourself. Ask yourself: How am I loved? How do I love? In either case or in some other manner best suited to you, be open to your heart and mind. Pay attention to your thoughts as they rise and then let them go.

The labyrinth is a place of presence; allow yourself to be present to yourself and to God. The labyrinth is a teacher; let it teach you through the mysterious power of God. As you walk the path, thoughts and ideas may rise up for you and in you -- often in refreshing and startling ways.



## Members and News

Aspen trees shiver  
with the first chill of winter,  
then glow like sunshine.

Diantha Ain

### **Parish Prayer Needs:**

**Music Program:** Thanksgiving for all the singers!!

**Healing:** Lee H., Dan J., Michael, Megan, Jean, Braydon, Hank, Fr. Steve, Al, Mary, Rich, Yvonne, VanNessa, Dee, Jeff, Jim, Bill & Leslie L., Jan, David, Lee, Trish, Sue, Tony, Mark, Michele, Eric, Louise, Bob & family, Edith, Rana, Howard, Mary, Donna, J.D. Frances B., Patrick, Margaret, Beverly, Eva.

**For Comfort:** Kraft family, Deb Wollum, The Nilles family. Janet, Patricia and family. Barbara Haryn. Eden Suguitan and family. Margie Roblins and family. Amanda and Xenia delaRoche. Conte family.



### **Cursillo Meeting**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday  
each Month at 7:30 pm at  
Joy and Bob Craig's Home  
2735 Beth Place



### **In St. Francis Library:**

For Children-- Dear God, Thanks for Thinking up Love

This is a "cardboard" book with a "Thank you" on each page. There is also a Bible passage for each "Thank you."

For Adults:

#### 1. Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng

Ng tells the story of six months in the lives of three families, all of different circumstances whose lives intersect in interesting ways. I found it very interesting on many levels and it was not a difficult read.

#### 2. The Chilbury Ladies' Choir by Jennifer Ryan

The Vicar of the Anglican Church of Chilbury, a small village in England, closed the choir due to the male voices being sent to war. The ladies do not take kindly to this and thus the rebellion begins. Even though the setting is World War II, the village is a positive place and the message is very positive. I loved the description of the village and its folk and I loved the map of the village in the beginning. This is also a quick read.

#### 3. In the Company of Others by Jan Karon

This is a story starring Father Tim Kavanagh. He takes his wife, Cynthia, to Ireland, the land of his ancestors. This is something of a mystery as they search for a missing painting. This mixture of the charming Tim and Cynthia Kavanagh and Irish music and storytelling makes this a compelling read.

## ECW Episcopal Church Women



The ECW meets on the 1st Friday of every month in the church at 6:30. We would love to have you join us for a time of fellowship and service. Please contact Sylvia Moya, 522-2897.



### DOK Daughter of the King

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.

#### From Susan Swoish:

The Swoish Family thanks everyone who sent mail to David Edward at Army Basic Combat Training in South Carolina. He's written to us to say he's gotten a lot of mail and it's very encouraging. He's graduating November 8<sup>th</sup> and will transfer to Missouri for his schooling. If anyone would like his new address, please email Susan at [sjs@swbusinessadvisors.com](mailto:sjs@swbusinessadvisors.com).

Most importantly, thank you all for your prayers because he's doing very well. It's exciting to have a Soldier in the family now!

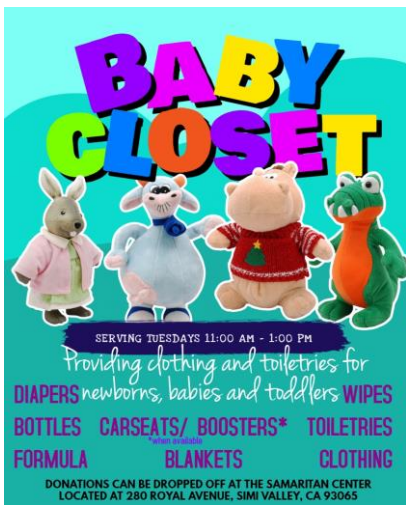


### St. Francis Women's Retreat

Our retreat will be held **Feb. 1-3, 2019** at Mount Calvary Monastery and Retreat Center, 505 E Los Olivos St, Santa Barbara, CA 93105. **Phone:** (805) 682-4117

This is in the center of Santa Barbara near the Mission. We need a nonrefundable deposit by **December 8**. The sign up sheet will be in the church office. The total cost is \$260. This includes 5 meals, instead of the 4 that we have gotten at other retreats. There are gardens for quiet contemplation, a labyrinth and the largest Dragon's Blood tree in the United States. It is named for its blood red sap. The terrace looks out to Mission Canyon and the Santa Ynez mountain range. Bring your daughters, friends and mothers for a wonderful weekend of peace and relaxation.





## BABY CLOSET

Don't forget the needs of the Baby Closet that is ongoing. Please talk with Gerri Harrington if you are able to volunteer on the days the Closet is open, or to share in doing laundry as the donations of baby clothes come in. We will be collecting new and gently used baby clothes, baby blankets, crib sheets, and receiving blankets. Look for the hamper in the narthex for donations ages newborn through toddler sizes. We are open from 11:30 – 1 pm on Tuesday and Thursday every week.

**Donations needed of disposable diapers and baby wipes.**

If you have any questions contact Gerri Harrington at (818)521-0313.



## NEW OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED THROUGH ST. FRANCIS

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.

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

- **Jelly For Sandwiches**
- **Plastic Forks and Spoons**
- Gallon And Sandwich Size Ziploc Bags
- Aluminum Foil, Soup Bowls
- 10 oz Coffee Cups
- Cleaning Products – 409, Pinesol, Bleach
- Sleeping Bags For The Clients
- Blankets
- Men's and Women's Socks

More Information: <http://www.thesamaritancenterofsimivalley.org>

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.



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI EPISCOPAL CHURCH PRESENTING:

# COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

JOIN US FOR A *FAMILY FUN NIGHT* OF  
**SING-ALONG**

*CAROLING*  
&  
*TAMALE DINNER*

FUN FOR  
EVERYONE

**DECEMBER 16th**  
**5:00 pm**

**Tickets \$15**  
**Available at the**  
**Door**

280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley, CA 93065 (805)526-5141 [stfrancis.simi@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancis.simi@gmail.com)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2 Advent I</b> Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music –  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>3</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study  8 pm Men's AA PH	<b>4</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs.  7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	<b>5</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 11:15 am Drum Cir. <b>7 pm Taize Service</b> 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	<b>6</b> 9am-1pm Office Hrs.  7pm RCA Clare Rm	<b>7</b> Office Closed  6:30 pm ECW Meeting 8 pm AA PH	<b>8</b>
<b>9 Advent II</b> David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>10</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study  8 pm Men's AA PH	<b>11</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs.  6:30 pm Men's Group Meeting 7 pm Centering Prayer at Church  7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	<b>12</b> 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 11:15 Drum Cir. 7:30 pm Cursillo Mtg. at Craigs <b>5 pm Labyrinth  Walk</b> <b>7 pm Taize Service</b> 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	<b>13</b> 9am-1pm Office Hrs.  7pm RCA Clare Rm	<b>14</b> Office Closed  8 pm AA PH	<b>15</b> 10 am-3 pm Spiritual Journey Class
<b>16 Advent III</b> Brainerd Dharmaraj, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music, Greening of Church, Sam Ctr. Collection <b>5 pm Country  Christmas</b> 6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>17</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study <b>Franciscan Articles  Due</b>  8 pm Men's AA PH	<b>18</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs.  7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	<b>19</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Healing & Eucharist Service,  <b>7 pm Taize Service</b> 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	<b>20</b> 9am-1pm Office Hrs  7pm RCA Clare Rm	<b>21</b> Office Closed  8 pm AA PH	<b>22</b>
<b>23 Advent IV</b> Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music Recycle Sunday  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> Office Closed  <b>6 pm Jazz</b> <b>10 pm Candlelight  Christmas</b>  8 pm Men's AA PH	<b>25 Christmas  Day</b>  7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	<b>26</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service, 11:15 Drum Cir. 12 Sam Ctr. Mtg. 7:30 pm Cursillo Mtg at Craigs 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	<b>27</b> 9am-1pm Office Hrs  7pm RCA Clare Rm	<b>28</b> Office Closed  8 pm AA PH	<b>29</b>
<b>30 Christmas  I</b> David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>31 New Year's  Eve</b>  8 pm Men's AA PH	<b>January 1, 2019</b>  7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH				



# December 2018 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Dec. 2	Dec. 9	Dec. 16	Dec. 23	Dec. 30
<b>10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist</b>					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Esther D.	Jan J.	Ken S.	Joy C.	Ruth H.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Andrew	Chrissy B.	Eden S.	Grace R.	Susan S.
LEM (Chalice)	Bernadette David S.	Ruth H. Esther D.	Rob & Kristin W.	Jan J. Esther D.	Bernadette David S.
Acolyte & Crucifer		Grace	Esther S.	Grace	Esther Andrew
Usher / Greeters	Tony F. Rebecca S.	Tony F.	Tony F. Rebecca S.	Tony F. Jacob M.	Tony F. Rebecca S.
Altar Guild	Teri M.	Chris M.	Chrissy B. Ruth H.	Joy C.	Teri M.
Home Communion	Brainerd & Esther D.	Jan J. Eden S.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Jan J. Ruth H.	Brainerd & Esther D.
Vestry Counters	Bernadette Bob C.	Sam A. Jan J.	Amy B. Cathy G.	Amy R. Joy C.	Susan S. Gerri H.
<b><u>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!</u></b>					

Please call Jennifer @805.990.4102 to sign up for Coffee Hour.

December	2	9	16	23	30
10am	DOK	Elizabeth H.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Anusiem Family	



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.

# January 2019 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Jan. 6	Jan. 13	Jan. 20	Jan. 27	Feb. 3
<b>10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist</b>					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Esther D.	Jan J.	Ken S.	Joy C.	Ruth H.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Chrissy B.	Andrew	Eden S.	Grace R.	Susan S.
LEM (Chalice)	Bernadette David S.	Ruth H. Esther D.	Rob & Kristin W.	Jan J. Esther D.	Bernadette David S.
Acolyte & Crucifer		Grace	Esther S.	Grace Andrew	
Usher / Greeters	Tony F. Rebecca S.	Joe Z. Tony F.	Tony F. Rebecca S.	Jacob M. Tony F.	Tony F. Rebecca S.
Altar Guild	Teri M.	Chris M.	Chrissy B.	Joy C.	Ruth H.
Home Communion	Brainerd & Esther D.	Jan J. Eden S.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Jan J. Ruth H.	Brainerd & Esther D.
Vestry Counters	Bernadette Bob C.	Sam A. Jan J.	Amy B. Cathy G.	Amy R. Joy C.	Susan S. Gerri H.
<b><u>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!</u></b>					



## 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 – December 2018

TO:

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#### **Sunday Service:**

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

#### **Wednesdays**

- **10 am Healing Service**