

The Franciscan



The Bishop's Committee

From our Vicar... December 2017



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Advent...
 The Beginning...
 The reason that we are the church...
 The Birth of Our Savior...
 The coming of God incarnate in Jesus.
 Without Advent...
 Without this Beginning...
 There would be nothing...
 A void.
 A void of God's incarnation through human flesh.
 This is what we remember during the season of Advent.
 This is what we renew ...
 Our relationship with a God who loves us so desperately that,
 Through any chosen form God could take,
 God took humanity and transformed the whole human family
 Through a baby, a human life named Jesus.
 We are changed forever because of Advent...
 The Beginning...
 The incarnation.
 If we say "Yes" to Advent, we also are incarnational
 God in us,
 God with us,
 And our lives are never the same.
 May you say "Yes" to Advent.
 Receive the Beginning....
 Again,
 Renewing...
 Reaffirming....
 Your relationship with Jesus,
 God in us,
 God with us,
 Emmanuel.



Sarah Kitch



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Taize Worship Services



**Starting December 6 and continuing
December 13 and 20th,**

6:00 pm

**All are welcome to join during this
Advent Season.**

**The service will be a time of
contemplative worship. Taize
Worship Service involves sung and
chanted prayers, meditation a
period of silence, liturgical readings
and icons. There is no preaching.
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.
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
angels extolling the birth of our Lord.**

Worship Schedule for December 24



10:15 am Lessons and Carols



6:00 pm Jazz Christmas Eve



**10:00 pm Traditional Candlelight
Mass**

Members and News

From Church of South India (C.S.I.) Church of the Ascension



After Sunday morning service, on Sunday, October 29, a group of church goers travelled 30 kilometers to Masinagudi, a hamlet at the foothills of the Nilgiris - quite literally translated-the blue mountains. Five people took baptism. An occasion witnessed by around 50 members of the congregation. Among those baptized were former non-Christians.

The church is also getting ready for carol service by candle light the highlight of the festivities of Christmas. A group of twenty-five individuals from the ages of 14 to 60 are preparing themselves for confirmation early next year.

The community of believers who meets at the Church of the Ascension are very grateful for our partnership of prayer as they remember us in their prayers on Sunday and Friday.

Fr. Jerome sends St Francis Church Community his warmest regards. (Fr. Jerome is the father of Esther Dharmaraj, and serves as an Episcopal Priest in South India)

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.

Our heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to Arc. Bring your wrapped gifts with name and number on them by December 3. See Sylvia Moya if you have any questions.



Prayer Shawls:

Please remember that St. Francis has Prayer Shawls in the Narthex at church. These Prayers Shawls are to give to people who are in need of comfort. If you know someone who needs comforting and covered in prayer please help yourself.

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI EPISCOPAL CHURCH PRESENTING:

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

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

*CAROLING
&
FOOD*

FUN FOR EVERYONE

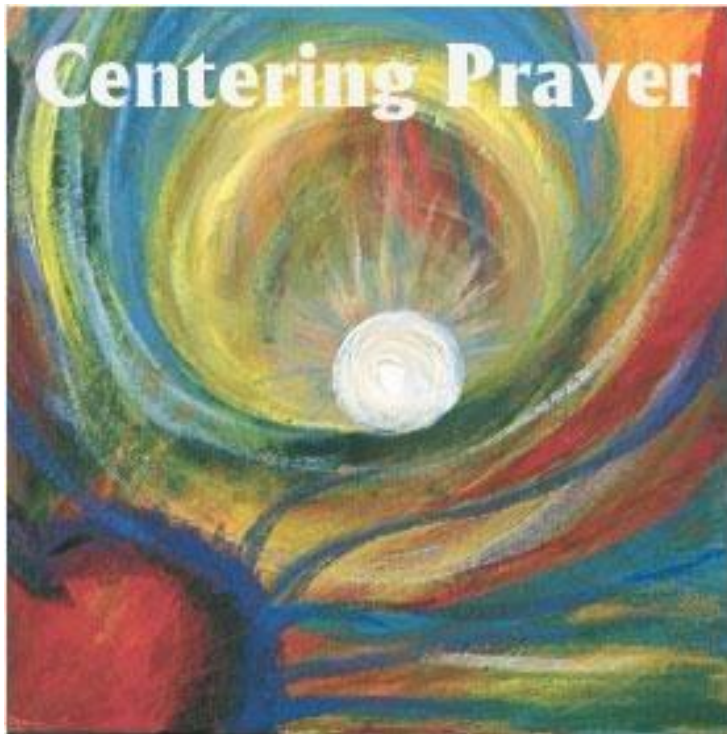
**DECEMBER 17th
5:00 pm \$15**

RAFFLE GIVEAWAY:
OFFICIAL PRICELESS
AUTOGRAPHED ACM
AWARDS GIFT BASKET

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

Our own Derek Silbermann and Scott Eben are planning another wonderful festival of music for us for Christmas. The Country Christmas Concert will be December 17 here at St. Francis at 5:00. It is a night filled with warmth, friendship, hot cocoa and more, plus your favorite Christmas songs of all time. It will feature acoustic guitars and instruments, singers and bells!!!

It is a family event for all generations, featuring special raffle of country singers autographs and paparazzi jazz stuff. Young and old come out and join us in a good old-fashioned Christmas Carol sing-along and Christmas Cheer. Special requests are invited!!!! Tickets \$15 and go to support St. Francis Music Ministry.



Join Centering Prayer the second Tuesday each month at 7 pm at Brainerd and Esther Dharmaraj's home. 1540 Rose Arbor, Simi Valley, (805)583-5342 and the fourth Tuesday each month at the church in the Library at 7 pm.

Of all our blessings
the ability to love
is God's greatest gift.

Diantha Ain



2018 Women's Retreat

The 2018 annual women's' retreat will be held at Casa de Maria, in Montecito California. If you have never gone and are interested in learning more about Casa de Maria or the retreat itself, please ask me or Kathy Butler. Many of the women in the congregation have gone in the past so you could very well find someone sitting right next you that you can ask! The grounds at Casa de Maria offer a beautiful, restful location to find peace and tranquility. There are many activities where fellowship is a part of the retreat and everyone is welcome to join, unless you just want to relax, sleep or go for a walk. Mark your calendars for the weekend of April 20 -22nd, the retreat starts with dinner on Friday evening and ends on Sunday after lunch. The cost for the 2 night stay and 6 meals will be \$280.00. There will be a signup sheet or you can contact Pat Udell at

(805)583-4422 or pat@casademaria.org



Sign up to Serve at Coffee Hour

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. Call Jennifer Anusiem, 805-990-4102 if you cannot make it to serve for coffee hour.



RALPHS

Community Contributions Program

This quarter St. Francis will receive \$106.12 total donation from Ralphs Community contributions. It was only 6 households that helped with this donation. Can you imagine how much St. Francis would get if more people registered their Ralph’s cards and specified St. Francis for their donation! It doesn’t cost you anything, you just shop as usual and give your card or phone number. It is that easy to help your church! You get food and St. Francis gets money!

Go on line at

community.programs@ralphs.com or visit the website www.ralphs.com to register your card. Thank you!

Comments from Sam Anueism:

This is good: As of 9/30/2017:

Our pledges are \$637.00 more than budgeted

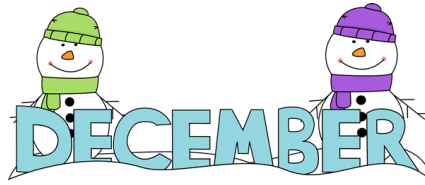
Income is \$19,274 more than budgeted

Expenses are \$5,897.00 less than budgeted

Net income is \$12,497 instead of budgeted loss of (\$879)

The total pledge for 2017 is \$166,096, so we have three months to collect \$40,886 in pledges. That is very possible.

Financial Update as of September 30, 2017			
	Actual	Budget	
	Jan-Sep 2017	Jan-Sep 2017	Variance
Pledge and regular Contribution	\$125,210.00	\$124,573.00	\$637.00
	Actual	Budget	
	Jan-Sep 2017	Jan-Sep 2017	Variance
Income	183,072.00	163,798.00	19,274.00
Expense	170,574.00	164,677.00	(5,897.00)
Net Income	12,498.00	(879.00)	13,377.00



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Office Closed 6:30 pm ECW Mtg 8 pm AA PH	2
3 Advent I David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	4 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study 8 pm Men's AA PH	5 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	6 9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 6 pm Taize Advent 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	7 9am-2pm Office Hrs.	8 Office Closed 8 pm AA PH	9
10 Advent II Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	11 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study 8 pm Men's AA PH	12 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm Centering Prayer at Dharmarj's Home 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	13 9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 12:30 pm Sam Center Brd Mtg 6 pm Taize Advent 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	14 9am-2pm Office Hrs.	15 Office Closed Franciscan Articles Due 8 pm AA PH	16 10 am Spiritual Journey Class
17 Advent III David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music, Greening of the Church, No BC Mtg. 5 pm Country Christmas 6:30 Men's AA PH	18 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 8 pm Men's AA PH	19 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	20 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing Service & Eucharist Service 6 pm Taize Advent 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	21 Office Closed	22 Office Closed 8 pm AA PH	23
24 Advent IV Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music Belize Collection 6 pm Jazz 10 pm Candlelight Christmas 6:30 Men's AA PH	25 Christmas Day  8 pm Men's AA PH	26 Office Closed 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	27 Office Closed 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	28 9am-2pm Office Hrs.	29 Office Closed 8 pm AA PH	30
31 Christmas I Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music Recycle Sunday 6:30 Men's AA PH						

December 2017 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Dec. 3	Dec. 10	Dec. 17	Dec. 24 Christmas Eve	Dec. 31 New Year's Eve
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Susan S.	Dan J.	Joy C.	Tom B.	Joy C.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Esther D.	Jan J.	Grace R.	Kathy B.	Grace R.
LEM (Chalice)	Tom & Kathy B.	Bernadette S. David S.	Kristin & Rob W.	Tom & Kathy B.	Esther & Brainerd D.
Acolyte & Crucifer	Andrew Brenda	Grace	Esther	Brenda	Grace Esther
Usher / Greeters	Joe Z.	Tony F. Rebecca S.	David S. Jr. Tony F.	Rebecca S. Tony F.	David S. Jr. Tony F.
Altar Guild	Joy C.	Teri M.	Megan A.	Kathy B.	Eden
Home Communion	Jan J.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Eden S.	Tom & Kathy B.	Brainerd & Esther D.
Vestry Counters	Susan S. Sam A.	Amy R. Bernadette S	Kathy B. Scott E.	Amy B. Cathy G.	Bernadette S. Joe Z.
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!					

St Francis Coffee Hour Schedule

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

December	3	10	17	24 Christmas Eve	31 New Year's Eve
10am	DOK	Millie Reina Marilyn Taylor	Bob Kahn		

January 2018 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Jan. 7	Jan. 14	Jan. 21	Jan. 28	Feb. 4
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Joy C.	Susan S.	Dan J.	Esther D.	Tom B.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Grace R.	Esther D.	Jan J.	Grace R.	Kathy B.
LEM (Chalice)	Esther & Brainerd D.	Jan J. Eden S.	Bernadette S. David S.	Rob & Kristin W.	Tom & Kathy B.
Acolyte & Crucifer	Grace Esther	Andrew Brenda	Grace	Esther	Brenda
Usher / Greeters	David S. Jr. Tony F.	Joe Z.	Tony F. Rebecca S.	David S. Jr. Tony F.	Rebecca S. Tony F.
Altar Guild	Eden	Joy C.	Teri M.	Megan A.	Kathy B.
Home Communion	Brainerd & Esther D.	Jan J.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Eden S.	Tom & Kathy B.
Vestry Counters	Tom B. Robert C.	Sam A. Scott E.	Bernadette S. Amy R.	Susan S. Joy C.	
<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>					



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 2017

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Sunday Service:

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

Wednesdays

- **10 am Healing Service**