

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.







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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.



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.



Body of Christ

In the 16th century, Saint Teresa of Avila said, "Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out to the world. Yours are the feet with which Christ is to go about doing good." It's still true. What our world today is going to know about Jesus will be through us and because of us.

-Br. Curtis Almquist Society of Saint John the Evangelist

It is my privilege to write you about the ministries at St. Francis and all that God has done this past year! Indeed, there is a swirl of activity that is captivating when you enter the grounds. On any day of the week, you will find children, studying, playing, swinging, singing, acting, or finding the awesome wonders of science and biology. We are so grateful for the homeschooling groups that have St. Francis a welcoming space for their growing students to open their minds to the wonders of learning. On any day of the night you will find many adults, taking time to study the Bible, sitting in contemplative prayer, or meeting in fellowship with one another in recovery and 12-step programs.

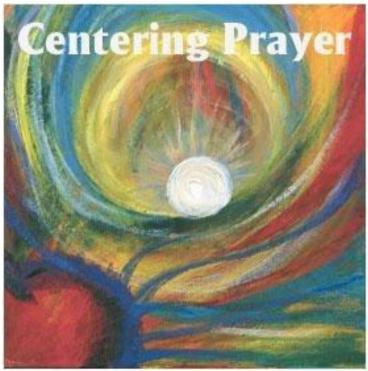
Small and large groups meet in the parish hall, the Clare Room, the Sunday School, and the patio, laughing, praying, sharing and caring for one another.

It is a joy to see so many faces of God through these people!

St Francis offers all this because of the generous and committed family of God that believes in the ministry and outreach of St. Francis.

Through each one, that worships on Sunday or supports our work in the community through the Samaritan Center during the week, we make a way for all to know Jesus. We are the feet and hands. We are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is looking at the world.

We begin our pledges and commitments at this time of the year. As a community we offer our resources to make St. Francis visible in the world. We bring our gifts and offerings to God to make a way for all to know Jesus and to be co-creators of what God is doing in the Kingdom Work. St Francis is alive with such visibility in the world. Please would you pray and consider making a financial commitment to St. Francis this year? It is our way of returning to God all that God has given to us here at St Francis. Blessings on you all.



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

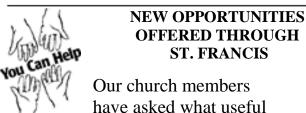
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Parish Prayer Needs:

Music Program: Thanksgiving for all the singers!!

Healing: 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.

For Comfort: The Heckler family. Deb Wollum, George and the Schneider family. The Nilles family. Conti Family. Janet, Patricia and family. Barbara Haryn. Donna Shiver. Julie Christian.



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, 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.

BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY



St. Francis will be putting together a Business Directory of businesses that are recommended or owned by the members of St. Francis. We all are always looking for good reliable businesses to call such as a handyman, plumber, electrician, etc.

If you have a business or know of a good reputable business please bring the business card to church. We would love to work on this during the summer.

Thank you for considering how you can help with this project.

You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support your charitable organization by shopping at **smile.amazon.com**

#StartWithaSmile at <u>smile.amazon.com/ch/95-2558848</u> and Amazon donates to St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church.



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.



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

<u>community.programs@ralphs.com</u> or visit the website <u>www.ralphs.com</u> 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 o			
	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	2
					Office Closed	
					6:30 pm ECW	
					Mtg 8 pm AA PH	
3 Advent I	4	5	6	7	8 Office Closed	9
David Kitch,	9am-2pm Office Hrs.	9am-2pm Office	9am-2pm Office Hrs	9am-2pm Office		
Preaching	Noon Brown Bag	Hrs.	10 am Healing	Hrs.		
10:15 am Eucharist with	Bible Study		& Eucharist			
Music			Service 6 pm Taize Advent			
Widsic		7 pm AA Clare Rm	o pin Taize Auvent			
620M 2 AA DH		8 pm Women's	7:30 pm Men's AA			
6:30 Men's AA PH	8 pm Men's AA PH	AA PH	PH		8 pm AA PH	
10 Advent II	11	12	13	14	15Office Closed	16
Rev. Sarah Kitch,	9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag	9am-2pm Office Hrs.	9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing	9am-2pm Office Hrs.		10 am
Preaching	Bible Study	1115.	& Eucharist	1110.		Spiritual
10:15 Eucharist with Music		7 pm Centering	Service			Journey Class
with Music		Prayer at Dharmarj's Home	12:30 pm Sam			
		7 pm AA Clare	Center Brd Mtg			
		Rm 8 pm Women's	6 pm Taize Advent		Franciscan Articles Due	
6:30 Men's AA PH	8 pm Men's AA PH	AA PH	7:30 pm Men's AA PH		8 pm AA PH	
17 Advent III	18	19	20	21	22Office Closed	23
David Kitch,	9am-2pm Office Hrs.	9am-2pm Office	9am-2 pm Office	Office Closed		
Preaching 10:15 Eucharist		Hrs.	Hrs. 10 am Healing			
with Music,			Service &			
Greening of the			Eucharist			
Church, No BC		7 pm AA Clare	Service			
Mtg.		Rm 8 pm Women's	6 pm Taize Advent 7:30 pm Men's AA			
5 pm Country		AA PH	PH		8 pm AA PH	
Christmas 6:30 Men's AA PH	8 pm Men's AA PH				1	
24 Advent IV	25	26	27	28	29Office Closed	30
Rev. Sarah Kitch,	Christmas Day	Office Closed	Office Closed	9am-2pm Office	2) Office Closed	
Preaching	Cirristinas Day			Hrs.		
10:15 Eucharist with Music						
Belize Collection						
6 pm Jazz		7 pm AA Clare Rm				
10 pm Candlelight		8 pm Women's	7:30 pm Men's AA			
Christmas 6:30 Men's AA PH	8 pm Men's AA PH	AA PH	PH		8 pm AA PH	
31Christmas I	Happy New Year					
Rev. Sarah Kitch,	Mary 1000 Jan					
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.				

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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

TO:

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church

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www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org



Sunday Service:

 Eucharist with Music 10:15 am

Wednesdays

10 am Healing Service