

The Franciscan



The Bishop's Committee

From our Vicar...December 2019



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“Come O Come Emmanuel,” hearkens each Sunday as we journey towards the Christ Child, awakening in our hearts the Salvation Light born to all the world. This Advent we open ourselves once again to be born anew with a small baby’s cry to render Kings and Rulers powerless, and to follow the footsteps to the lowly and humble. We stir our spirits to be calmed by the ancient carols and prophetic readings of the coming of the Promised One, Christ the Lord.

Join St Francis in this journey as we meet Wednesday Evenings for Taize Services, and quietly meditate and pray in this coming birth. Let us find time to walk the Labyrinth in reflection of what the Holy Child means to us. May we hear the Angels song to us of glad tidings brought anew to give us hope and promise for the coming days.

We open our arms with warmth and welcome to all and offer the ever-present Light given to all through the birth of Jesus. A blessed Advent and Christmastide to you and your family, to all those around you, and to the needs of the community near and far.



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*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities*

Thanks to all who have signed up to purchase holiday gifts for the individuals in our community who have special needs and truly appreciate these tokens of your generosity.

*Please remember to purchase only one gift per person, you make the decision whether to do their 1st or 2nd choice.

*After wrapping the gift(or you can use a gift bag), please attach a gift tag and write the person's name and #(listed at the beginning of the column) on the sign up sheet.

*Gifts can be brought to church beginning Sundays December 1st through December 15th.

Sylvia will be out of town until the first week of December. Please call me(Pat Udell), if you have any questions. Phone (805)358-4438 I will also have the sign up sheet at church in case you need to check names, numbers, gift selection, etc.



TAIZE 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 Taize 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 4, 11, 18.



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 in support of renovating the showers and restroom areas. 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.



Newly enlarged Labyrinth



**St. Francis Wish List
From Santa**

1. The office would like a new desktop computer.
2. The Labyrinth would love to see some concrete benches around the area.
3. The fellowship hall would like to replace the heavy round tables with lighter ones!
4. While we're dreaming we'd love to see a GAZEBO on the property.

December 1

6 pm

Jazz Vespers with Claire Holley
Greening of the Church



**Wednesdays in
December 4th, 11th, 18th
7 pm Taize Services**

December 24



6:00 pm Christmas Eve



**10:00 pm Traditional
Candlelight Mass**



**Claire Holley will be coming to
St. Francis
December 1 for Jazz Vespers!**



CLAIRE HOLLEY BIO

Claire Holley grew up singing with friends and family in Jackson, Mississippi. She began writing songs while in college in Chicago, and shortly after released her first recordings while living in North Carolina. There, WUNC's Back Porch Music began spinning her songs, and NPR's Weekend Edition featured her 2001 self-titled debut from Yep Roc Records.

To date, Holley has released twelve critically acclaimed records, and No Depression called *Time in the Middle* "one of 2015's finest albums." Both a vocalist and guitar player, Claire performs at venues around Los Angeles, her current home, and has performed around the country at venues like Merlefest, Mountain Stage, Club Passim and the Thacker Mountain Radio Show. She regularly writes and records for film and theater. Her latest album, *Every Hour*, features modern arrangements of hymns and sacred songs, ranging in style from a 4th century carol to southern gospel and a Beach Boys cover. According to *Mississippi Today*, "In Holley's hands and voice, the hymns ring clear and sincere.

PRESS QUOTES "*Claire Holley is an observer, a romantic reporter from the backyards and front porches of the heartland...*" --Acoustic Guitar Magazine
"*She captivates audiences when she combines her warm spirit with a beautifully natural way of singing....*" --Independent's Day

"*Claire Holley has a firm grip on the musical vocabulary and storytelling obsession of the South. And like any great Southern character, she's as complicated as the recipe for sour mash whiskey.*" --PASTE Magazine "

...she owes much to the southern tradition of storytelling, and just as much to the southern tradition of charm..." --Image Journal

"*Holley's voice is nothing short of achingly beautiful, the songwriting could be used as an example of a poetic art form, and the production is top notch.*" --Huffington Post
"*Holley's work is straightforward, unabashed and beautiful.*" --Performing Songwriter

Members and News



Wednesday is the New Day! The Brown Bag Bible Study led by David Kitch, will be at Noon on Wednesdays instead of Monday, in the Clare Room. Everyone is invited to join!



When you shop at 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.

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DOK Women's Retreat 2020

2020 may seem a long way off though we have had to make reservations and the planning has started for the annual Women's Retreat

We have made reservations for 20 and if you would like to reserve a spot, a \$50.00 nonrefundable deposit is due by November 1, 2019. Save the dates of February 28 through March 1 2020(Fri. Sat. Sun). The cost will be a few dollars more as Mt. Calvary has increased their rates. The total cost for the weekend will be \$270.00 for both Friday and Saturday evening with all meals included, starting Friday evening through lunch on Sunday. We had a great time last year and the accommodations and setting were lovely. It was a fun, relaxing, reflective and (at times) lively weekend. A sign-up sheet will be available in September, so save the date!
February 28th- March 1st 2020!

If you have any questions see Pat Udell or Leslie Lonergan



Parish Prayer Needs:

Music Program: new music director, Rahn Coleman.

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: Janet Johnson, McCarty family, Yvonne Robello, 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, Morris family.



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.



Centering Prayer is changed from 7 pm to 6 pm during the winter months.

Thanks generate warmth in the heart of the donor and recipient.

Diantha Ain



Thanks to all who attended the convention. We had a great time!
See you next year!

From Ruth Haskins:

"Convention was awe-some in the true sense of the word, not the way it's used today. Experiencing the peace and communion with a thousand like-minded people was almost overwhelmingly emotional for me with its feeling of just wonder and spirit filled!"



Cursillo 4th Day
every month-
1st and 3rd Wednesday
of the month at
7:30 pm at the church.



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 am – 1 pm on Tuesday.

Donations needed of disposable diapers, baby wipes and cream. The next Baby Shower will be December 29. Start stocking up on diapers, wipes and cream!

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. 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.

All shelf-stable goods are helpful, as well as cleaning products and trash bags.

PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN WITH...

- Canned meals (like stew, soups, ravioli, spaghetti'Os)
- Paper Towels
- Grape Jelly For Sandwiches
- Peanut Butter (Creamy) for Sandwiches
- Plastic Forks and Spoons
- Toilet Paper (Septic Safe)
- Gallon And Sandwich Size Ziploc Bags
- Soup Bowls
- 10 oz Coffee Cups

More Information:

<http://www.thesamaritancenterofsimivalley.org>

MY RIDE

Need a Ride?

We provide rides to Drs. Appts. Market, Errands, etc. to Seniors.

Serving Simi Valley and Surrounding Areas



FREE

805.304.0806

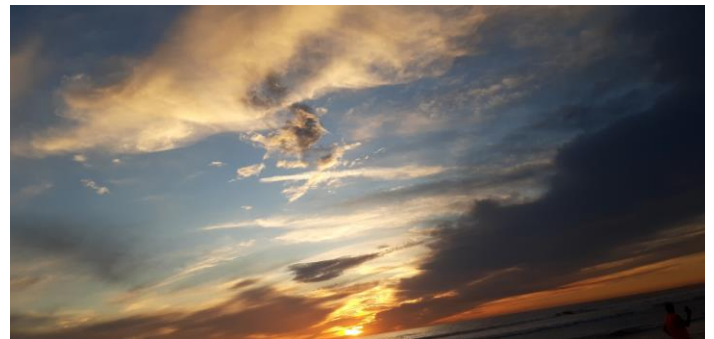


New Opportunity in Ministry

St Francis is offering a wonderful new opportunity in ministry and prayer through Massage. We have a masseuse who is willing to come to St Francis one day every other week and offer massage to anyone. She can do chair massage, table massage, or any way one feels comfortable. It is a wonderful opportunity! Through her massage, we are able to support the Samaritan Center! She will offer her time to the Samaritan Center for every massage she does for St Francis. We are thrilled to have her and so blessed for this opportunity!!! Please contact the office for more details and to sign up!!!

Malia Taylor discovered the gift of massage therapy ten years ago while going through some life transitions. For her, the giving and receiving of non-sexual, therapeutic touch was a way to connect back to herself, to others and to the Divine. Over the past decade, Malia has refined her skills through working on thousands of clients, including many A-list celebrities and athletes in several luxury spas and medical clinics.

This has deepened her practice by becoming a Certified Reiki Master (2016) a Certified Crystal Healer (2017) and a Certified Spiritual Director (2013). Her desire is to awaken others to the gift of connecting to their bodies and thereby connecting to the movement of God. Malia is also a devoted single mom who has raised her four nearly grown children in Los Angeles and currently practices massage therapy and spiritual direction in Beverly Hills and surrounding areas.




Silence

God wants to come to us. God wants us to open ourselves to God as God has opened Godself to us. God wants our hope, our listening, our receptivity. God wants our silence. That is easy to say. It is hard to do. In noisy, frenetic lives, silence is an uncomfortable task. It is a dangerous rebellion against a culture whose armies encroach on all sides, war drums beating ever more loudly.

-Br. Lucas Hall

[Society of Saint John the Evangelist](#)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Advent I David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music 6 pm Jazz Vespers 6:30 Men's AA PH	2 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 8 pm Men's AA PH	3 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	4 9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7 pm Taize Service 7:30 pm Cursillo 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	5 9am-1pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm	6 Office Closed 6:30 pm ECW 7 pm Bible Study 8 pm AA PH	7
8 Advent II Rev. Brainerd Dharmaraj, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	9 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 8 pm Men's AA PH	10 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 5 pm Centering Prayer at Church 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	11 9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7 pm Taize Service 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	12 9am-1pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm	13 Office Closed 7 pm Bible Study 8 pm AA PH	14
15 Advent III Esther Dharmaraj, preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	16 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Franciscan Articles Due 8 pm Men's AA PH	17 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	18 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7 pm Taize Service 7:30 pm Cursillo 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	19 9am-1pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm	20 Office Closed 7 pm Bible Study 8 pm AA PH	21
22 Advent IV Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music Noon BC Mtg 6:30 Men's AA PH	23 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 8 pm Men's AA PH	24 Church Office Closed 6 pm Jazz Service 10 pm Candlelight Service 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	25 CHRISTMAS DAY  7:30 pm Men's AA PH	26 9am-1pm Office Hrs 7pm RCA Clare Rm	27 Office Closed 7 pm Bible Study 8 pm AA PH	28
29 Christmas 1 Rev. Bob Bethancourt Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music Recycle Sunday Baby Shower 6:30 Men's AA PH	30 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 8 pm Men's AA PH	31 Church Office Closed New Year's Eve 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA	January 1, 2020  7:30 pm Men's AA	29 am-1pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm	3 Office Closed 7 pm Bible Study 8 pm AA PH	4

December 2019 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Dec. 1 Jazz Vespers	Dec. 8	Dec. 15	Dec. 22	Dec. 29
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10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Susan S.	Eden S.	Ken S.	Joy C.	Chrissy B.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Joy C.	Chrissy B.	Reuben A.	Eden S.	Ruth H.
LEM (Chalice)	Ruth H.	Esther & Brainerd D.	Rob & Kristin W.	Bernadette David S.	Esther & Brainerd D.
Acolyte & Crucifer		Esther S.		Esther S.	
Usher / Greeters	Tony F. Rebecca S.	Rebecca S. Tony F.	Tony F. Jacob M.	Tony F. Joe Z.	Tony F. Rebecca S.
Altar Guild	Ruth H.	Chrissy B.	Chris M.	Joy C.	Ruth H.
Home Communion	Eden S.	Esther & Brainerd D.	Ruth H.	Eden S.	Esther & Brainerd D.
Vestry Counters	Bernadette Dan M.	Cathy G. Ruth H.	Cathy G. Amy B.	Sam A. Joy C.	Bernadette Gerri H.

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!

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

Dec.	1	8	15	22	29
10am	Samaritan Center	Bob K.	Jennifer A.	ECW/DOK	Jacob M.



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 2020 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Jan. 5	Jan. 12	Jan. 19	Jan. 26	Feb. 2
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Susan S.	Eden S.	Ken S.	Joy C.	Chrissy B.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Joy C.	Chrissy B.	Reuben A.	Eden S.	Ruth H.
LEM (Chalice)	Ruth H.	Esther & Brainerd D.	Rob & Kristin W.	Bernadette David S.	Esther & Brainerd D.
Acolyte & Crucifer		Esther S.		Esther S.	
Usher / Greeters	Tony F. Rebecca S.	Rebecca S. Tony F.	Tony F. Jacob M.	Tony F. Joe Z.	Tony F. Rebecca S.
Altar Guild	Ruth H.	Chrissy B.	Chris M.	Joy C.	Ruth H.
Home Communion	Eden S.	Esther & Brainerd D.	Ruth H.	Eden S.	Esther & Brainerd D.
Vestry Counters					

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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 2019

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Sunday Service:

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

Wednesdays

- **10 am Healing Service**