



The Franciscan



February 2023

• **Diocesan Bishop** •

John Harvey Taylor

• **Our Vicar** •

The Rev. Sarah Kitch

stfrancis.simi@gmail.com

• **The Bishop's Committee** •

- *Bishop's Warden*
Amy Brown
- *Junior Warden*
Dan McCarty
- *Finance*
Sam Anusiem
- *Clerk/ Communications*
Cathy Grimes
- *Service/Outreach*
Gerri Harrington

From Our Vicar

Lent isn't a time that we reflect on our behavior and give ourselves a penance that for forty days we're going to give up something. It's about the fulfilled kin-dom relationship we have with God through Jesus, and allowing ourselves to put down deeper roots in that relationship. It means that we set aside this season to make time to be with our best friend, our lover, our Lord. It's like setting aside time and going on a vacation with your best friend. (I bet you never thought of it like that!) We make choices of things that take our time, and yield them to spend some quality time with our relationship with God.

... read article on pg. 2



Published monthly by St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church

280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065

Email: stfrancis.simi@gmail.com

www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org

office- 805.526.5141

fax- 805.520.3819

From Our Vicar...

“Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.” Psalm 1

I love the idea of being a tree beside streams of water, with my roots going down deeply, yielding fruit in season and my leaves never turning dry. It’s a great image for us presently as we continue to appreciate the rain we have had. It also has value when we are facing the dry summer and remember our drought.

I wonder if Lent doesn’t sometimes feel a little like the dry time – even drought. We have been formed to believe that Lent is the quiet, reflective time of the church year, when we spend time dwelling on our sins, and giving up something that is a habit. Sounds dreary and unappealing and something I wouldn’t wish to practice. Certainly imagery of trees beside streams of water doesn’t seem to be relevant when I’m giving up chocolate, coffee, wine, or television. So I’ve been meditating on what this really is about and I came across some reading recently about righteousness. Too often I think we equate righteousness with good behavior, a code of conduct that we uphold. Actually righteousness means a fulfillment of the claim that a relationship makes as satisfaction of the obligation of a relationship. Let me re-state that in the vernacular. My relationship with Jesus fulfills my righteousness. I don’t have to try to be good to be righteous.

Lent isn’t a time that we reflect on our behavior and give ourselves a penance that for forty days we’re going to give up something. It’s about the fulfilled kin-dom relationship we have with God through Jesus, and allowing ourselves to put down deeper roots in that relationship. It means that we set aside this season to make time to be with our best friend, our lover, our Lord. It’s like setting aside time and going on a vacation with your best friend. (I bet you never thought of it like that!) We make choices of things that take our time, and yield them to spend some quality time with our relationship with God.

Making quality time comes in all different forms and a multitudinous variety. I like to give something away. For example, I might choose to get a less expensive cup of coffee each week and take the money I’m not spending and give it secretly to someone in need. It might be random acts of kindness of groceries, or notes sent, or some measure of grace that no one would

be expecting. If I think of the season of Lent in this way, I'm asking God "hey, what's up for today? What kind of adventure, blessing, or act of kindness can we do today that is all about your love?" I'm spending quality time in my relationship with God, and we're having a vacation together that can't be beat! I might even be sipping wine in a lovely spot, and eating chocolate with a friend.

The point is the time we set aside for Lent is giving ourselves away to God. It's allowing ourselves to be deeply nourished in the streams of living water that we may flourish and find ourselves alive and vibrant in the kin-dom work of God's redemption. It's not a penance that we have to uphold to know righteousness. Jesus already has given us righteousness through our relationship with him. We choose to give Jesus our undivided attention during this time because we want to grow deeper in love with Jesus. When we choose to let go of some of the things that take our attention, we're saying that I long to be more attentive with God, and we know that God's attention longs for us.

So what do you say? Think it's worth a gamble to give yourself away on a vacation this season with God? The adventure is all yours and opens up possibilities and surprises that await you because the Divine Lover embraces you in the dance of Life! Happy Lent!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.

Stay Connected With Us!

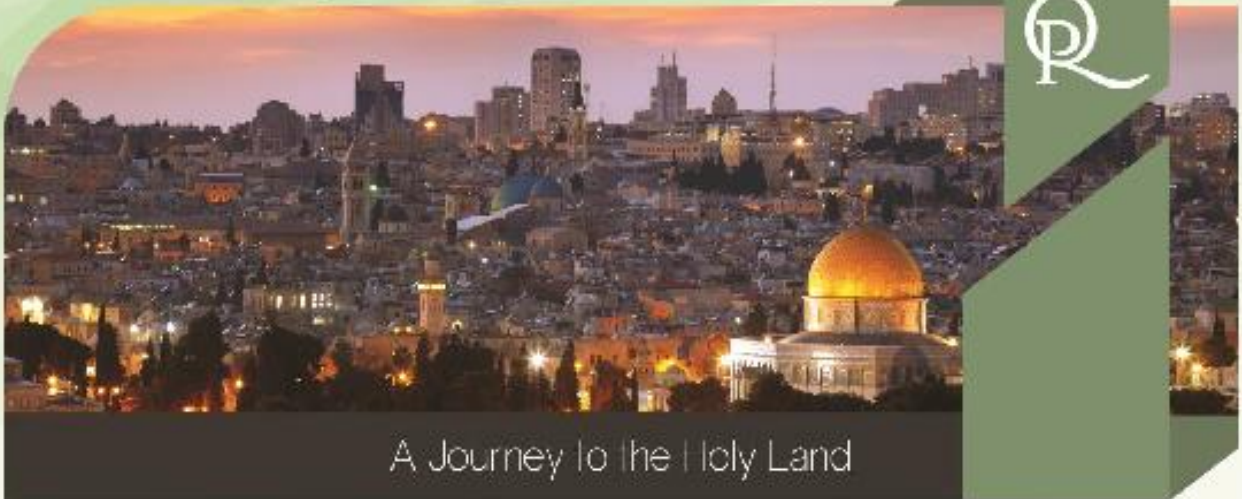
- Pastoral Care through the church office (805)526-5141
- Pastoral Care via email Stfrancis.simi@gmail.com
- Keep up through the St. Francis Website <https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/>
- Sunday Worship In-Person 10:15 AM & Live Streamed - links in the St. Francis Weekly
 - Stay connected through weekly services and activities made available

Please remember St. Francis with your donations and pledge.

Secure online giving available through PayPal:

<https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/donate>

QUMRI PILGRIMAGES LTD.



A Journey to the Holy Land

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church – Simi Valley, CA
A Journey to The Holy Land

Led by The Reverend Sarah Kitch
Local Guide Canon Iyad Qumri & Rami Qumri
12-Days: June 26 - July 8, 2024

Leaving the United States on Wednesday, June 26.
Thus, arriving at Ben Gurion in Tel Aviv on Thursday, June 27.
Departure flight from Ben Gurion will be in the afternoon / evening Monday, July 8.

June 27- Jul 2 Saint George's Guest House
Jul 2-5 Sisters of Nazareth
Jul 5-8 Saint George's Guest House

Cost is **\$2850.00** per person based on double occupancy, (add **\$560.00** for a single)
Cost includes all land accommodations, bus transportation, breakfast/lunch/dinner, tour guide, most tips, etc. Airfare is not included.

As of Jan 2023, non-stop airfare is approx. **\$1400.00**/person, round trip, economy.

A deposit of \$500.00 per person will be collected in or around June of 2023.

Friends and family are welcome. Please speak with Rev. Sarah about the physical demands of this tour, or the youngest age for whom this tour is appropriate. A clipboard will be located at the front of the church, to collect names of those interested, or you can email questions/interest to Rev. Sarah.

A follow up meeting of those who have expressed interest will occur in Spring of 2023 – Information to follow.

NEW EXERCISE CLASS

Starting: Friday February 3, 2023



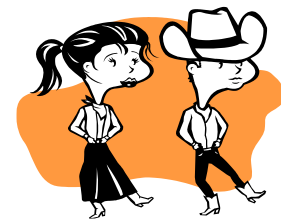
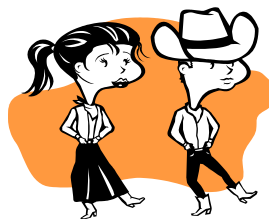
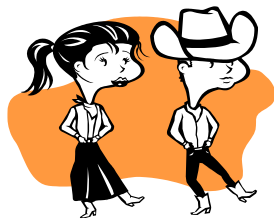
Fridays 9:00 am to 10:00 am

\$5.00 per class

1. February 3
2. February 10
3. February 17
4. February 24

Get an overall workout of aerobic exercise, muscle building, balance and stretching.
Bring weights and a mat.

LINE DANCING CLASS



Wednesdays: 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm
4 classes @ \$20.00 per Month (cash or check)

1. February 1
2. February 8
3. February 15
4. February 22

**Note: Class changes to Monday at 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm
February 27th on Monday**

(walk-ins available @ \$10.00 per class)



Mardi Gras Gumbo Cook-off

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, February 21st at 5:30 pm** for a hearty Cajun dinner and LOTS of Fun and Fellowship. All are welcome.

Tickets are \$15 at the door.

To enter the cook-off, contact Rev Sarah or call the church office to sign-up.

We're
Collecting
TOYS for
Hillsides. Ask
Sylvia Moy for
details. Drive
runs February
1st - March 31st.

Hillsides TOY Drive



Lenten Taíze Services

Services will be held each
Wednesday of Lent in the Church
at 6:00pm.

**March 1st
March 8th
March 15th
March 22nd
and
March 29th**



Ash Wednesday Services

Services will be Wednesday
February 22nd

10:00 am
12:00 pm
and
6:00 pm



**DOK will be holding a day retreat at Amy Brown's house
Saturday, February 25th from 10am-2pm.
*Contact Rev. Sarah, Amy Brown or Pat Udell for details.***



***All women are welcome to participate.
Membership in the Daughter's of the King (DOK) is not required
to attend the day retreat.***



Cookie Fundraiser



Spread love with delicious handmade cookies this Valentine's Day!



Purchase a Cookie Box for your Valentines, and support the Samaritan Center! Homemade by staff, volunteers, & clients. Choose your flavors, add a rose or a card, or even get your cookies delivered!

Order at bit.ly/samcentercookies

Place your order by 2/10/23

Questions? contact info@samcentersv.org or (805) 579-9166



Parish Prayer Needs:

Healing: Barbara, Sylvia, Brody, Avalon, Shantel, Lee, Michael, Kim, Jean, Braydon, Hank, Fr. Steve, Al, Mary, Yvonne, Dee, Jeff, Jim, Bill & Leslie, Jan, David, Lee, Trish, Sue, Tony, Mark, Michele, Eric, Louise, Bob & family, Edith, Howard, Mary, Donna, J.D., Frances, Patrick, Margaret, Beverly, Margie, Alan and family, Kevin, Eve, Amy, Judy, Bernadette, Arianna, Pam, Sammie, Gerri, Steven, John, Tiffany, Leo, David, Henry, Cheryl, Ana, Susan.

St. Francis Book Club

Anyone who would like to join should contact:
Chris M at 805.276.4971



Go to smile.amazon.com/ch/95-2558848 and Amazon donates to **St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church every time you order through Amazon. Amazon Smile ends Feb 28th.**

*"Til death do us part'
gives us ample time to learn
to live together."*

-Haiku by Diantha Ain



Line Dancing Wednesdays on the patio MOVES to Mondays Feb 27th

BABY CLOSET

Don't forget the needs of the Baby Closet -

The Baby Closet is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-11am.

Healing Service Continues to meet weekly on Wednesdays in the Sanctuary.

All are welcome to attend this casual mid-week service with Eucharist at **10:00 am on Wednesdays.**

They are collecting **DIAPERS SIZE 4,5,6** and have a continual Need for **BABY WIPES** and helping hands. Please connect with Gerri H. if you are able to help with these needs or Volunteer - **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.**

ECW begins meeting again February 3rd at 6:00 pm. Contact Sylvia Moya for more details.

February 2023 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Feb. 5	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 26	
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Reuben A.	Suzanne L.	Peggy S.	Tony F.	
LEM	Chrissy B.	Tracy H.	Rob W. Kristin W.	Lisa N.	
Usher / Greeter	Tony F.	Joe Z.	Reuben A.	Rebecca S.	
Altar Guild	Cathy G.	Tracy H.	Chris M.	Chrissy B.	
Preaching	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.	

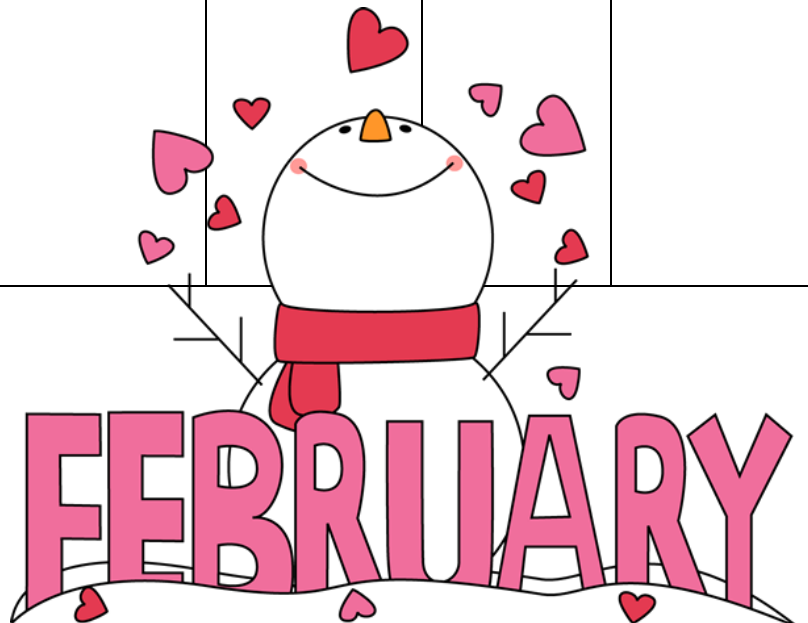
March 2023 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Mar. 5	Mar. 12	Mar. 19	Mar. 26	
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Reuben A.	Suzanne L.	Peggy S.	Gerri H.	
LEM	Lisa N.	Tracy H.	Rob W. Kristin W.	Chrissy B	
Usher / Greeter	Tony F.	Reuben A.	Joe Z.	Rebecca S	
Altar Guild	Cathy G.	Tracy H.	Chris M.	Chrissy B.	
Preaching	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Chrissy B.	Rev. Susan Klein	

Please let the Church Office know if you are unable to serve on your scheduled day. Thank you for Serving!

february

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 4:30 Line Dancing 7:30 pm AA Clare Rm	2 Baby Closet 10-11  7 pm NA Clare Rm	3 9 am Exercise 6:00 ECW Mtg 8 pm AA PH	4
5 Rev. Sarah Kitch Preaching Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	6 8 pm Men's AA	7 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH 8 pm Women AA	8 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 4:30 Line Dancing 7:30 pm AA Clare Rm	9 Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm NA Clare Rm	10 9am Exercise 8 pm AA PH	11 Private Event
12 David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	13 8 pm Men's AA	14 Baby Closet 10-11  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH 8 pm Women AA	15 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 4:30 Line Dancing 7:30 pm AA PH	16 Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm NA Clare Rm 6 pm H.H. HOA	17 9am Exercise 8 pm AA PH	18
19 Rev. Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	20 8 pm Men's AA	21 Baby Closet 10-11  5:30 Mardi Gras Gumbo Cookoff 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA 8 pm Women AA	22 10 am, 12pm & 6pm Eucharist Service with Ashes  4:30 Line Dancing 7:30 pm AA PH	23 Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm NA Clare Rm	24 9am Exercise 8 pm AA PH	25 10am-2pm DOK Day Retreat at Amy Brown's
26 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	27 5:30 Line Dancing 8 pm Men's AA	28 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH 8 pm Women AA				



The Franciscan

Newsletter – February 2023

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065
Phone 805.526.5141
www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org

TO:



Sunday Service:
10:15 am

Wednesday Service:
10:00 am Healing

Ash Wednesday Services:
10 am, 12 pm, 6 pm