

The Franciscan



The Bishop's Committee

From our Vicar... February 2017



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Landscape

*Isn't it plain the sheets of moss, except that
they have no tongues, could lecture
all day if they wanted about*

*spiritual patience? Isn't it clear
the black oaks along the path are standing
as though they were the most fragile of flowers?*

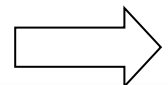
*Every morning I walk like this around
the pond, thinking: if the doors of my heart
ever close, I am as good as dead.*

*Every morning, so far, I'm alive. And now
the crows break off from the rest of the darkness
and burst up into the sky—as though*

*all night they had thought of what they would like
their lives to be, and imagined
their strong, thick wings.*

--Mary Oliver, Dream Work

The landscapes we live in shape us. There are certain places on earth which sing more strongly to our hearts. Some of us are called again and again to particular places because of the impact they have on how we see the world. Places which shimmer with a kind of beauty and holiness. Honoring this reality is a way of honoring the incarnation - God becomes flesh in the world around us. *This* place, St Francis, is such a place. It is a place that calls people to refresh their souls, find a renewed sense of commitment to God, and feel deeply loved and blessed.



Published monthly by St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church 280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065
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(Continued from page 1)

St Francis is a place that roots us in the monastic practice of stability, which calls people not to run away but to stay committed to the place they find themselves. For us, it means fully embracing the way the world around you shapes your own dreams and desires and points you in a holy direction.

What are the landscapes which shimmer strongly for you, revealing a holy presence? How does the landscape you live in now shape your vision of the world?

- excerpt from Christine V. Painters
Abby of the Arts



Altar Flower Donations

As in the past, we are accepting donations for the Altar Flowers for \$30 or more. You can make a donation in thanksgiving of a birthday or anniversary or anything you are thankful for. Or you can make a donation in memory of someone. Please sign up in the Narthex on the bulletin board for a particular Sunday and drop your donation (cash or check) into the offering plate using the flower donation envelopes ahead of time with the thanksgiving or memorial noted. On the requested Sunday, your thanksgiving or memorial will be printed in the service insert. And your tax-deductible donation will help beautify the sanctuary.

Donations towards Easter lilies and Christmas Poinsettias are also available. If you have any questions, please ask Kathy Butler or Megan Anderson.

St. Francis Mardi Gras Dinner & Festivities

Tuesday, Feb. 28th 6:30 pm

In the Parish Hall

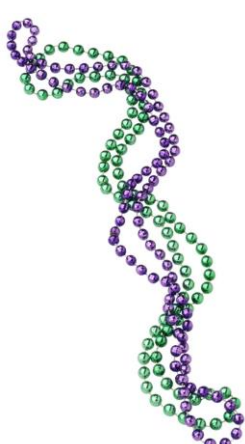
Join in the Gumbo Cookoff!

Sign up to bring a pot of your secret recipe Gumbo, Jambalaya or other Cajun specialty. We'll also have rice, salad and bread, topped off by decadent desserts. Mac & cheese served, too.

Wine & beer, of course! Cajun tunes, King & Queen

Admission: \$12 per person, \$30 Family
(It's free if you're in the cookoff!)

Questions? Call Tom Butler 805-416-4930





Community Program Ralphs Grocery Store

St. Francis has 2 household supporters who shopped at **Ralphs** between **6-1-2016** and **8-31-2016** (Cycle 16, Qtr 4) have contributed to St. Francis receiving **\$39.05** total donation. St. Francis will be receiving a Kroger check in this amount within 30 days from 9-21-2016.

If you have any questions or to sign up, even if you don't shop at Ralphs every week every time you go you can still help. Please email: community.programs@ralphs.com or visit our website at www.ralphs.com. NPO #80992

Thank you for your continued support of your local Ralphs store.

God's love is a gift
Designed to fortify us
From tribulation.

Diantha Ain



Womens' Retreat 2017

Calling all women of St. Francis! Our next retreat is scheduled for the first weekend in March 2017.

Mark your calendar for March 3 -5 to join us for a relaxing, inspirational, fun-filled weekend. There are many women from St. Francis (and friends and family) who have joined us in the past and have returned to partake of the time away to relax and rejuvenate.

We will be returning to La Casa de Maria in Montecito; the property is beautiful and there is lots of free time to explore the grounds and all of its features.

Friday night dinner is provided as well as 3 meals on Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. More information will be provided as we get closer to the retreat date or you can ask Pat Udell, Kathy Butler or Carol Greene if you would like more specifics.

The cost will be \$265.00 for the entire weekend, including lodging(3 women per room) and all of the meals.

We will have a sign up sheet starting in October and you can secure a spot by providing a \$100.00 deposit.

The remainder of the balance will not need to be paid until February. We look forward to seeing you there!

Parish Prayer Needs:

Please keep the Perry Family in prayer.

Music Program: Pray for more regular singers.

Healing: Megan, Jean, Braydon (baby born with half a heart), Hank, Fr. Steve, Al, Mary, Rich, Yvonne, VanNessa, Dee, Jeff, Jim,

Jan, David, Lee, Trish, Sue, the wife of Wayne, Tony, Mark, Michele, Eric, Louise, Bob & family, Edith, Rana, Howard, Mary, Donna, J.D.Frances B., Patrick, Margaret.

For Comfort: George and the Schneider family. Suzanne Mudge and family. Conti Family. Janet, Patricia and family. Barbara Haryn. Donna Shiver.

Members and News

ECW

Episcopal Church Women



The ECW will be going on a tour of the Hillside Orphanage in Pasadena in the springtime, possibly March or April. Hillside is an institution that provides foster care and special education for abandoned and abused children. Anyone interested in joining us, please contact Sylvia Moya, 522-2897.

We are continuing our loving tradition of collecting unwrapped toys for all ages of children and teens at Hillside. The gifts are distributed throughout the year on the children's birthdays – as gifts from Jesus. Please leave your unwrapped gifts, preferable those which don't require batteries, in box at the Altar. Gift cards, such as Target, please gift to Sylvia Moya. We will deliver in March or April.

The ECW meets on the 1st Friday of every month in the church at 6:30. We would love to have you join us.

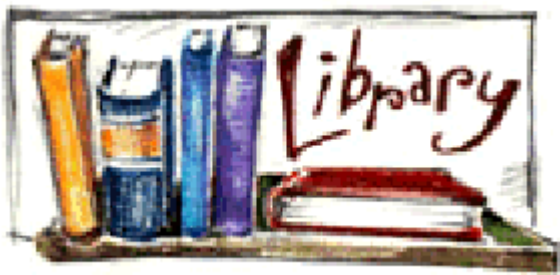
Sylvia Moya



DOK

Daughter of the King

DOK is making Pocket Prayer Cloths. 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.



We have several new children's books in the library, along with the Advent books from last year. Also new are books by Willa Cather, Madeleine L'Engle, Barbara Brown Taylor and Harvey Cox.



Prayer Shawls:

I have donated all of my Prayer Shawl pattern books, both in knitting and crocheting to the library. I have not been able to knit or crochet as usual and I will be gone the first part of next year. I know that many of you knit and crochet and hope that you will find a pattern that you like and will make a prayer shawl. The office has the pattern for the Pocket Prayer Cloths. I hope that you will prayerfully consider helping with this ministry.

To My Church Family,

My name is Esther Swoish. I am 10 years old and a proud Junior Girl Scout from Troop 60668, here in Simi. In the Fall of 2016, I was able to sell Girl Scout Nuts & Candies after Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall. Many of you supported me with this sale, and I thank you!

Now Girl Scout Cookie Time is coming! I will be here Sunday, February 5, 2017 and after for a couple of weeks, I will have COOKIES set up in the Fellowship Hall to sell. I wanted to let everyone know, so you can take care of your sweet tooth with those famously delicious cookies! There will not be any pre-orders taken, they will be sitting with me at a table for your purchase. The proceeds from this fundraiser help pay for my troop to journey to San Francisco for our "Bridging Ceremony"- with thousands of other Girl Scouts from California.

Please stop by my "Cookie Table" to say hello and purchase cookies. I thank you for your support!

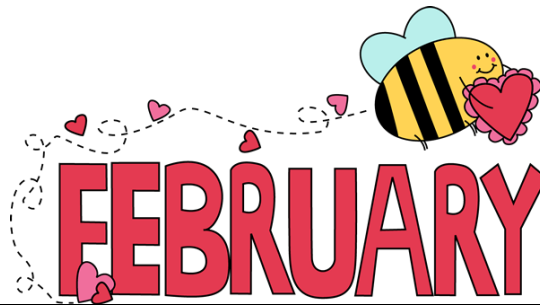
Sincerely,
Esther Swoish



2017 Girl Scout Cookie Line-Up!

New! Girl Scout S'mores™

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Lemonades™ | Carmel deLites |
| Thanks-A-Lot® | Thin Mints |
| Gluten-Free Trios | Peanut Butter Patties |
| Shortbread | Peanut Butter Sandwiches |



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	2 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	3 Office Closed 6:30 ECW 8 pm AA Church	4
5 Epiphany 5 10:15 am Eucharist with Music & Sunday School 6:30 Men's AA PH	6 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study 8 pm Men's AA PH	7 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 6:30 pm Men's Group 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	8 9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 12:30 pm Sam Center Brd Mtg 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	9 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	10 Office Closed 8 pm AA Church	11
12 Epiphany 6 10:15 Eucharist with Music & Sunday School 11:15 am Hi/College Bible Class 6:30 Men's AA PH	13 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study 8 pm Men's AA PH	14 Valentines Day 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 6:30 pm Men's Group 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	15 9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	16 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Franciscan Articles Due 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	17 Office Closed 8 pm AA Church	18
19 Epiphany 7 10:15 Eucharist with Music & Sunday School Belize Collection Noon BC Meeting 6:30 Men's AA PH	20 Presidents Day Church Office Closed 8 pm Men's AA PH	21 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	22 9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	23 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	24 Office Closed 8 pm AA Church	25
26 Last Sunday After Epiphany 10:15 Eucharist with Music Recycling 6:30 Men's AA PH	27 9am-2pm Office Hrs Noon Brown Bag Bible Study 8 pm Men's AA PH	28 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 6:30 pm Mardi Gras 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	March 1 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Ash Wednesday 10 am, 12:15 pm 6 pm Services with Ashes & Eucharist	2 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	3 Office Closed DOK Women's Retreat Weekend ⇌ 8 pm AA Church	4

NEW OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED THROUGH ST. FRANCIS



Want to be involved with the Samaritan Center, Joe Zepf has been part of a Men’s Mentoring Program offering everything from help in filling out forms, to a listening ear. Talk with Joe about the various opportunities that are available as we partner our mission and ministry with the Samaritan Center. <http://thesamaritancenterofsimivalley.org/>

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. 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**

Update of Needs for the Samaritan Center. . . 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



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!



St. Francis Coffee Hour Schedule

February 2017

	5	12	19	26	
10am	DOK		Anusiem Family	Amy B.	

March 2017

	5	12	19	26	
10am					

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.

February 2017 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Feb. 5	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 26	March 5
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Dan J.	Ginny M.	Susan S.	Tom B.	Joy C.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Esther D.	Ken S.	David K.	Kathy B.	Esther D.
LEM (Chalice)	Ken S. Esther D.	Bernadette S. David S.	Rob & Kristen W.	Tom & Kathy B.	Jan J. Esther D.
Acolyte & Crucifer	Andrew Rachel Emma	Grace Esther	Andrew Esther	Brian Wesley	Andrew Rachel Emma
Usher / Greeters	Tony F. Rebecca S.	Tony F. Rebecca S.	David S. Jr. Tony F.	Joe Z.	Tony F. Rebecca S.
Altar Guild	Kathy B.	Teri M.	Ginny K.	Kathy B. Joy C.	Teri M.
Home Communion	Jan J.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Jan J.	Tom & Kathy B.	Jan J.
Vestry Counters	Amy R. Tom B.	Susan S. Kathy T.	Vicky B. Kathy B.	Amy B.	

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!

March 2017 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26	April 2
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Joy C.	Susan S.	Dan J.	Ginny M.	Tom B.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Esther D.	Ken S.	Jan J.	David K.	Kathy B.
LEM (Chalice)	Jan J. Esther D.	Ken S. Esther D.	Bernadette S. David S.	Rob & Kristen W.	Tom & Kathy B.
Acolyte & Crucifer	Andrew Emma Rachel	Brian Wesley	Andrew Esther	Grace Esther	Andrew Emma Rachel
Usher / Greeters	Tony F. Rebecca S.	Joe Z.	Tony F. Rebecca S.	David S. Jr. Tony F.	Tony F. Rebecca S.
Altar Guild	Teri M.	Kathy B. Joy C.	Teri M.	Ginny K.	Teri M.
Home Communion	Jan J.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Jan J.	Jan J.	Tom & Kathy B.
Vestry Counters					

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**We now have WiFi
in the Church!**

Contact the church office for the username and password.

the Franciscan

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065

Newsletter – February 2017

TO:

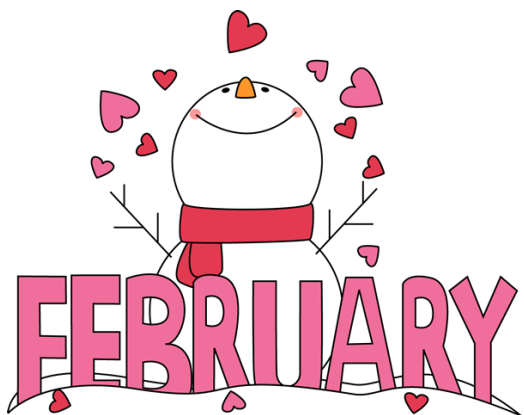
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Sunday Service:

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

Wednesdays

- **10 am Healing Service**