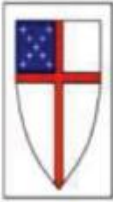


The Franciscan



The Bishop's Committee

From our Vicar... February 2018



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Jan Richardson, a writer, artist, and minister, writes blessings for all occasions. It seemed appropriate to include a blessing for this time of Lent and our reflection in this quiet time of the church. We are held in a waiting period. We are mindful of our own shortcomings and our heart's longing for something better. We are longing for something we cannot name, and find Someone of whom we hope we know. It is a time in the Desert. It is a time in the dark. Yet, in this time of quiet and reflection, what is it that we hear as we respond to the Psalmist words, "Be Still and Know That I Am God?" As we are still, what do notice and celebrate? What gives us hope in this held time of God's Great Love?

Blessing the Desert

Ask me what this blessing sounds like
and I will tell you about the wind
that hollows everything
it finds.
I will tell you about locusts
who chose this night
to offer their awful,
rasping song.
I will tell you about rock faces
and how it sounds when what was sturdy
and solid suddenly shears away.
But give me long enough,
and I will tell you also
how beneath the wind,
a silence, not of absence
or of agony that leaves all speechless
and stricken when it comes,
but of rest, of dreaming,
of the seed that knows its season
and the wordless canticle of stars
that will not cease their singing
even when we cannot bear
to hear.

—Jan Richardson
from *The Cure for Sorrow*



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PRAYING FOR A WORD FOR THIS YEAR

In ancient times, wise men and women fled out into the desert to find a place where they could be fully present to God and to their own inner struggles at work within them. The desert became a place to enter into the refiner's fire and be stripped down to one's holy essence. The desert was a threshold place where you emerged different than when you entered.

Many people followed these ammas and abbas, seeking their wisdom and guidance for a meaningful life. One tradition was to ask for a word – this word or phrase would be something on which to ponder for many days, weeks, months, sometimes a whole lifetime. This practice is connected to **lectio divina**, where we approach the sacred texts with the same request – "give me a word" we ask – something to nourish me, challenge me, a word I can wrestle with and grow into. The word which chooses us has the potential to transform us.

What is your word for the year ahead? A word which contains within it a seed of invitation to cross a new threshold in your life?

"Lectio Divina", a Latin term, means "divine reading" and describes a way of reading the Scriptures whereby we gradually let go of our own agenda and open ourselves to what God wants to say to us.

The first stage is lectio (reading) where we read the Word of God, slowly and reflectively so that it sinks into us. Any passage of Scripture can be used for this way of prayer but the passage should not be too long.

The second stage is meditatio (reflection) where we think about the text we have chosen and ruminate upon it so that we take from it what God wants to give us.

The third stage is oratio (response) where we leave our thinking aside and simply let our hearts speak to God. This response is inspired by our reflection on the Word of God.

The final stage of Lectio Divina is contemplatio (rest) where we let go not only of our own ideas, plans and meditations but also of our holy words and thoughts. We simply rest in the Word of God. We listen at the deepest level of our being to God who speaks within us with a still small voice.

SOUL SUPPERS FILM SERIES

Please join us as we explore our shared life of faith through a series of thoughtful, inspiring and challenging films on Wednesday evenings during Lent.

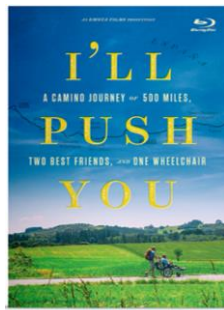
A light supper of soup, sandwiches and salad will be provided (or you can BYO). Just come and share in fellowship and reflection.

We will gather at 6pm for supper in the sanctuary. Films will begin promptly at 6.30 and will be followed by an informal discussion time. The evening will wrap up at 8.45.

Invite your friends!

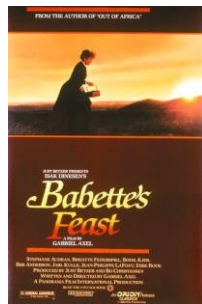
FEBRUARY 21: I'LL PUSH YOU. A deeply moving and challenging documentary.

Living with a neurological disease, Justin proposes the impossible to a life-long friend, Patrick: a pilgrimage across the 500 mile trail known as El Camino de Santiago. In a wheelchair.



FEBRUARY 28: BABETTE'S FEAST. Academy Award winner.

On the remote coast of Denmark in the 19th century, a mysterious refugee from France's civil war enters the lives of two spinster sisters living in an austere fishing village—and embracing an equally austere form of Christianity. A startling intersection of lives and history culminates in a true feast of grace.



MARCH 7: SISTER ACT.

Half way through Lent we lighten the atmosphere. Whoopi Goldberg provides a whole new take on "the singing nun" as a lounge singer under police protective custody who is placed in a conservative convent. One of the most successful musical films ever made provides the joyous opportunity to reflect on the life of faith in the world as we find it.



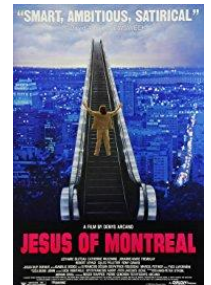
MARCH 14: THE SHACK.

Based on the best-selling book, starring Octavia Spencer. Following a family tragedy, a man spirals into a deep depression—causing him to question his most fundamental beliefs. A mysterious letter leads him on a spiritual journey of healing, hope and transformation.



MARCH 21: JESUS OF MONTREAL. Winner of Grand Jury Prize at Cannes, and a Golden Globe and Academy Award nominated film,

For more than 40 years the annual Passion Play has been a fixture at the famous Montreal basilica, but it has become dated and attendance is waning. Deciding that a change is needed, the priest in charge invites a young actor in Montreal to update the play. Recruiting a young and inventive cast, the show becomes a huge success, despite the disapproval of his employer. However, gradually and inevitably, the actors find that the life of Christ has an extraordinary impact on their real life existence.



Members and News

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.



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.



DOK

Daughter of the King

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.



There are three new books in the library.

The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See If you enjoy reading about Chinese culture in the small villages high in the mountains, this is the book for you. See writes about family, mothers and daughters and the cultivation of tea. As a tea drinker, I was fascinated about the intricacies of tea production. I was also moved by the relationships of the family and especially the complex relationship between mothers and daughters.

The Storyteller by Jodi Picoult. Picoult book is composed of multiple stories. I struggled, along with the characters, about the right to tell the secrets of others and forgiveness. The story moves from present day to the horrors of WWII.

All Fall Down by Jennifer Weiner. Weiner follows a family with a difficult child and a mother's decent into addiction with prescription medications. "With a sparkling comedic touch, true-to-life characterizations, Weiner turns one woman's slide into addiction and her struggle to find her way back up again into an unforgettable tale of empowerment and redemption."

WHAT IS A DRUM CIRCLE



A drum circle is a spiritual, communal, or therapeutic music experience in which participants join together in a circle to make rhythm, move, and dance, using various percussion instruments, voices, and whatever "found sounds" are around! Drum circles are often used to reduce stress, anxiety and blood pressure, to increase immune system function, and to create a sense of community.

Rhythm is a truly universal language, so therefore naturally creates a sense of community that can bridge gaps and potential biases.

Participants in a community drum circle act as both audience and artist, and the musical experience shared results in harmony, unity, and a feeling of wellness.

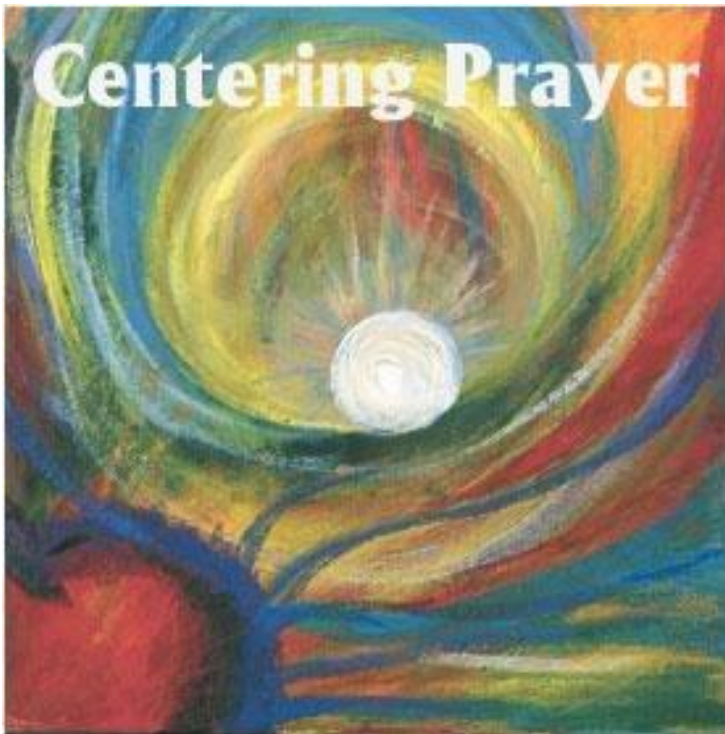
The success of a drum circle is not dependent on the group's musical ability. This is no different in children's drum circles!

Please contact Reverend Sarah if this sounds exciting to you and watch for details and upcoming Drum Circle Dates.

Missing someone? ... Call
Want to meet up? ... Invite
Want to be understood? ... Explain
Have questions? ... Ask
Don't like something? ... Say it
Like something? ... State it
Want something? ... Ask for it
Love someone? ... Express it

We have one life to live. Keep it simple.

Living Compass Lenten meditations available in the narthex.



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.



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 [\(805\)358-4438](tel:8053584438) or by email at: patriciaudell@sbcglobal.net

God's mantle of love
is always there to warm us
when the world grows cold.
Diantha Ain

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.



NEW OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED THROUGH ST. FRANCIS

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. Jelly for sandwiches

- **Backpacks**, Blankets & Sleeping Bags for the Clients. 39 gal and 40-45 black trash bags, Gallon ziploc bags, Napkins, Aluminum foil, Soup bowls, **10 oz coffee cups**
- Gloves, Socks, New underwear,
- **Thermal wear, Rain proof jackets**
- Batteries, AA, AAA, C, D
- Cleaning Products, **Windex, 409 Pinesol**

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 smile.amazon.com/ch/95-2558848 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.

Celebration and Fellowship report:

What a beautiful and fulfilling year at St. Francis! As we look back over the year, we are thankful for the many opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship. We had so much fun at the Neil Diamond concert in the summer, Italian night, the women’s retreat, and our new Country Christmas Sing-a-long. We got our groove on at Jazz on the Patio, keeping it cool through June, July, and August. Episcopalians love to eat almost as much as they love to drink, so we dined together at the Palm Sunday Bar-b-que, the ECW potato dinner, and the fabulous Maudy lamb fiest. To honor our names sake we reached out to the community for the annual blessing of the animals, and initiated a harvest festival. We look forward to kicking off Lent with a gumbo cook off. A beloved tradition continues to be our after service coffee hour fellowship, made possible by the generous donations of our congregation.

Thank you as always for the opportunity to be of service.

Joy & Bob Craig

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI EPISCOPAL CHURCH PRESENTING:

MARDI GRAS

GREAT GUMBO COOK-OFF

LIVE MUSIC

6:30PM TUE FEB 13th Tickets: \$15

stfrancischurchofsimi.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				19am-2pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm	2 Office Closed 6:30 pm ECW Mtg 8 pm AA PH	3 8:30 am Life Line Screening
4 Epiphany 5 Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	5 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study 8 pm Men's AA PH	6 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	7 9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	8 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm	9 Office Closed 8 pm AA PH	10
11 Transfiguration Brainerd Dharmaraj, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	12 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study 8 pm Men's AA PH	13 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 6:30 pm Mardi Gras Dinner 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	14 9am-2pm Office Hrs ASH WED. 10 am, 12:15 pm, 6 pm Services 12:30 pm Sam Center Brd Mtg 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	15 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm	16 Office Closed Franciscan Articles Due 8 pm AA PH	17 Koinonia John the Baptist PH
18 Lent 1 David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music, Belize Collection Koinonia John the Baptist PH 6:30 Men's AA PH	19 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study 8 pm Men's AA PH	20 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	21 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing Service & Eucharist Service 6 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm I'll Push You 6:15 pm FPU Clare Rm. 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	22 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm	23 Office Closed 8 pm AA PH	24 Koinonia John the Baptist PH
25 Lent 2 Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music, Recycle Sunday Noon BC Mtg. 6:30 Men's AA PH	26 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study 8 pm Men's AA PH	27 9am-2pm Office Hr 7 pm Centering Prayer in the Library 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	28 9am-2pm Office Hr 10 am Healing Service & Eucharist Service 6 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Babette's Feast 6:15 pm FPU Clare Rm. 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	March 1 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm	2 Office Closed 8 pm AA PH	3 6 pm ECW Potato Bake Dinner

February 2018 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Feb. 4	Feb. 11	Feb. 18	Feb. 25	March 4
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Tom B.	Joy C.	Susan S.	Dan J.	Esther D.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Kathy B.	Grace R.	Esther D.	Jan J.	Grace R.
LEM (Chalice)	Tom & Kathy B.	Esther & Brainerd D.	Jan J. Eden S.	Bernadette David S.	Rob & Kristin W.
Acolyte & Crucifer	Brenda Wesley	Grace Esther	Grace	Esther	Grace
Usher / Greeters	Rebecca S. Tony F.	David S. Jr. Tony F.	Joe Z.	Tony F. Rebecca S.	David S. Jr. Tony F.
Altar Guild	Kathy B.	Eden	Joy C.	Teri M.	Megan A.
Home Communion	Tom & Kathy B.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Jan J.	Eden S.	Brainerd & Esther D.
Vestry Counters	Tom B. Bob C.	Sam S. Joe Z.	Susan S. Cathy G.	Amy B. Kathy B.	Amy R. 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>					



St Francis Coffee Hour Schedule

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

February	4	11	18	25	March 4
10am	DOK	Sylvia M. Laurie B.	Dale H. Cathie G.	Jennifer A.	DOK

March 2018 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25 Palm Sun.	April 1 Easter
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Esther D.	Joy C.	Tom B.	Susan S.	Dan J.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Grace R.	Esther D.	Kathy B.	Grace R.	Jan J.
LEM (Chalice)	Rob & Kristin W.	Esther & Brainerd D.	Tom & Kathy B.	Jan J. Eden S.	Bernadette David S.
Acolyte & Crucifer	Grace	Brenda Wesley	Grace Esther	Grace	Esther Grace
Usher / Greeters	David S. Jr. Tony F.	Rebecca S. Tony F.	David S. Jr. Tony F.	Joe Z.	Tony F. Rebecca S.
Altar Guild	Megan A.	Eden S.	Kathy B.	Joy C.	Teri M.
Home Communion	Brainerd & Esther D.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Tom & Kathy B.	Jan J.	Brainerd & Esther D.
Vestry Counters	Amy R. Joy C.		Amy B. Kathy 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!



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 – February 2018

TO:

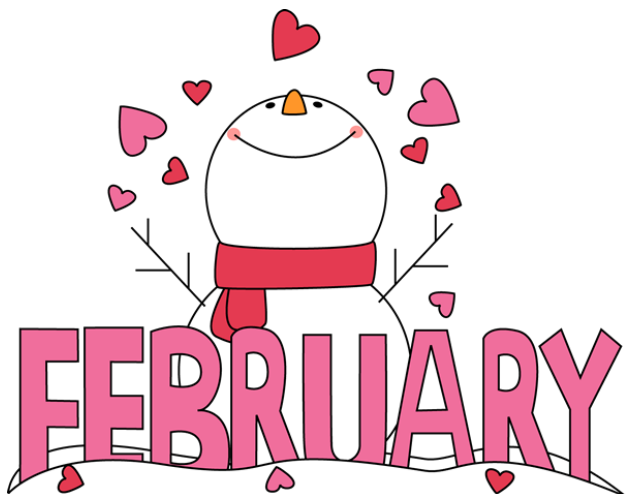
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Phone (805)526-5141

stfrancis.simi@gmail.com www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org



Sunday Service:

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

Wednesdays

- **10 am Healing Service**