

The Franciscan



The Bishop's Committee

From our Vicar... JAN. 2021



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It is a New Year.
A new beginning.
A new direction.
A new consideration for our life patterns and choices.
Just because it's January? Well not exactly.
For us in the church, our new year began at Advent.
Our new beginning began with the Christ Child's birth.
A new direction was given to us when God entered into the world as a baby.
We have been given a new way of life because of Jesus.
That's what the Magi saw when they made their journey to the Holy Family.
Is it what we see when we enter into this New Year?
What will be different for us?
What gift in our life will we give the Holy Child?
It is always a new beginning.
Every day we are given the blessing to begin again.
As we look at a New Year expanding before us, like a beckoning invitation of undiscovered land, why not be intentional about what we long for this time in our lives?
Are there Spiritual Disciplines that we may practice this year that are wanting to be in our daily experience? Prayer? Spiritual Reading? Community and fellowship? Worship?
What about time spent with friends that you've been missing?
How many of us have letters we want to write, or cards we want to send to someone letting them know we are thinking of them?
You get the idea. We are blessed by new beginnings and marking of a new Year. Let us be intentional about what is important to us, and claim our heritage of Christ our Lord given for us to know how deeply loved we are by God. We belong to God and to one another. May we live anew into this New Year and celebrate beginnings.



One of the spiritual practices I look forward to every year is praying for a word or phrase to carry me through the year. It is a beautiful way to enter into the New Year and be mindful of the Grace of God and the presence of God with us as we begin anew.

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.

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

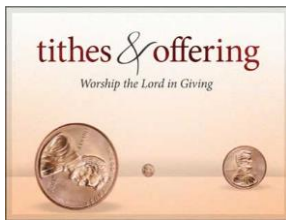
- Pastoral Care through the church office (805)526-5141, email revsarahkitch@gmail.com or cell 818-442-4514
 - Keep up through the St. Francis Website
<https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/>
 - Sunday Worship Live Streamed with link in the St. Francis Weekly
 - BIBLE STUDY 7:30 November 30 and December 14 on ZOOM WITH DAVID KITCH. LOOK FOR LINK AND ANNOUNCEMENT IN YOUR EMAIL ON THE FRANCISCAN WEEKLY
 - Remember to keep in touch with each other through the Phone Tree and stay connected.
 - Please remember St. Francis with your donations and pledge by
<https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/donate>
 - Advent Devotionals are now available. Contact the church office and we will send one out to you.
-

Blessing of Hope

So may we know
the hope
that is not just
for someday
but for this day
here, now,
in this moment
that opens to us
hope not made
of wishes
but of substance
hope made of sinew
and muscle
and bone
hope that has breath
and a beating heart

hope that will not
keep quiet
and be polite
hope that knows
how to holler
when it is called for
hope that knows
how to sing
when there seems
little cause
hope that raises us
from the dead
not someday
but this day,
every day,
again and again and
again.

- Jan Richardson



This is a loving, accountability, with a big smile and much affection but also a gentle reminder and invitation.

When Bishop Diane Bruce came to St. Francis and met with the Bishop's Committee a few years ago, one of the aspects of our church she affirmed was that we didn't bring up the "M" word as to what we felt was one of the most significant needs of the church. We were deeply blessed by her insight and how she shared that identifies the health of a community.

St. Francis church is healthy. The strength of that is our commitment and our continued sense of human flourishing to the well being of the church community, and our strength of mission and ministry outside the church.

All that said, we need to invite you to meet your pledge to the church. We are grounded and formed in Jesus' teaching of Stewardship and care for that which has been given to us. We are faithful to attend to the ministry of St. Francis and its outreach and God's mission for us.

Please, if you are caught a little behind on your pledge at this point of the year, would you consider catching that up? Would you consider being faithful to offer that to St. Francis?

If you find this challenging, would you please speak with me confidentially? Bishop Diane found St. Francis welcoming, hospitable, and loving. She felt the Spirit strongly in our life here and was deeply blessed by all that we are doing.

May we continue to faithfully bless each other and our life together here at St. Francis.

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.

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

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Go to smile.amazon.com/ch/95-2558848 and Amazon donates to

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church every time you order through Amazon.



BABY CLOSET

Don't forget the needs of the Baby Closet that is ongoing. Please talk with Gerri Harrington if you have questions. The Baby Closet is collecting DIAPERS SIZE 4,5,6. diapers; baby cream; baby wipes.

Stock up each week so you can help fill the closet with Diapers, Wipes and Baby Cream!

Parish Prayer Needs:

Healing: Sylvia, Brody, Avalon, Shantel, Lee, Michael, Megan, 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.

My ideal diet would drop more bulk from my hips than from my wallet.

Diantha Ain



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.

Here is a link for much needed items for the Samaritan Center:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/BXFBPE9HRPQR?ref=wl_share

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

PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN WITH...

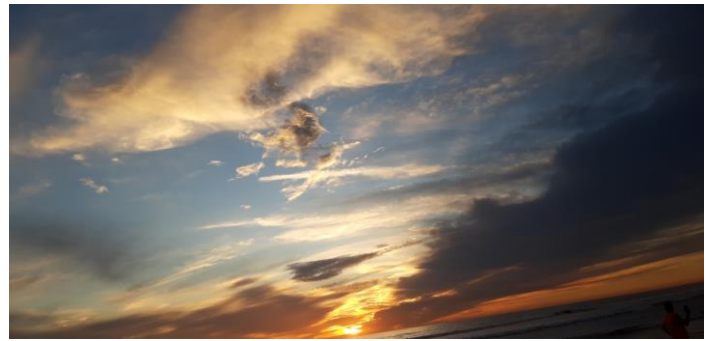
- Men's Jeans, shorts waist 30-34
- Men's & Women's work boots
- Men's belts
- Men's t-shirts size M or L
- Unopened/new Men's underwear & socks
- Disposable gloves size L or XL
- Face masks – Disposable
- Clorox wipes & bleach
- Unopened plastic utensils (forks & knives)
- Water bottles (16.9 fl oz)
- Disposable coffee cups(12 oz)
- \$10 Gas Card
- 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>

Caring for Each Other

Do not forget to keep in touch through the Phone Tree! Sylvia Moya	Megan Anderson
Megan Anderson	Beverly Chojnacki
Amy Brown	Jan Jones
Margie Roblin	Leslie Lonergan
Leslie Lonergan	Pat Udell
Pat Udell	Carol Fox
Cathy Grimes	Kathy Todd
Terri Meadows	Donna Hull
Bernadette Schnaible	Millie Reina
Eden Suguitan	Rebecca Sang, Aida Reyes
Liz Kavetsky	Yvonne Robello
Sam Anuseim	Marilyn Taylor
Steve Bayles	Ruthie Haskins
Nancy Corradini	Bob & Joy Craig
Bob & Joy Craig	Esther & Brainerd Dharmaraj
Brainerd & Esther Dharmaraj	Fr. Steve & Dorrie Dean
Ruthie Haskins	Richard & Cynthia Chadwick
Marilyn Taylor	Steve Bayles
Edee Fox	Gerri Harrington
Paula & Brad Keatts	Peter & Shelby Harksell
Dan & Chris McCarty	Jennifer Jones McIntyre & Clint
Jennifer Jones McIntyre	Ginny Morgan
Ginny Morgan	Lisa & Richard Nilles
Ken Simmonds	Roger Paul
Bethany Tucker	Deb Wollum
Rob & Kristin Wahlstrom	Jeff & Dale Heckler
Susan Swoish	Eric & Caroll Strome



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](#)

**Everyone is Invited!
Mark your calendar
January 31, 2021**

**The St. Francis Annual
Congregational Meeting
It is time that we hear about the
growth of St. Francis from the
previous year, and where we are
going in the year ahead.**

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					7 pm Bible Study 8 pm AA PH	
3 Christmas 2 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	4 8 pm Men's AA PH	5 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	6 Epiphany 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service Online Meditation 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	7 7pm RCA Clare Rm	8 7 pm Bible Study 8 pm AA PH	9
10 Epiphany 1 Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	11 8 pm Men's AA PH	12 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	13 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service Online Meditation 6 pm Woodranch HOA 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	14 7pm RCA Clare Rm	15 7 pm Bible Study 8 pm AA PH	16
17 Epiphany 2 David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	18 8 pm Men's AA PH	19 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	20 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service Online Meditation 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	21 7pm RCA Clare Rm	22 7 pm Bible Study 8 pm AA PH	23
24 Epiphany 3 Rev. Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Recycle Sunday 6:30 Men's AA PH	25 8 pm Men's AA PH	26. 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	27 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service Online Meditation 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	28 7pm RCA Clare Rm	29 7 pm Bible Study 8 pm AA PH	30
31 Epiphany 4 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Congregational Meeting Recycle Sunday 6:30 Men's AA PH						

January 2021 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Jan. 3	Jan. 10	Jan. 17	Jan. 24	Jan. 31
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10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Chrissy B.	Susan S.	Bernadette	Ken S.	Chrissy B.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Ruth H.	Eden S.	Rueben A.	Ruth H.	Eden S.
LEM (Chalice)	David K.	Ruth H.	Rob & Kristin W.	Bernadette	Chrissy B.
Acolyte & Crucifer					
Usher / Greeters		Rebecca S.	Joe Z.	Rebecca	
Altar Guild	Cathy G.	Chrissy B.	Chris M.	Ruth H.	Cathy G.
Home Communion					
Vestry Counters					

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!

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

January	3	10	17	24	31
10am	DOK/ECK	Samaritan Ctr. Baby Closet			

February 2021 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Feb. 7	Feb. 14	Feb. 21	Feb. 28	March 7
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10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Chrissy B.	Susan S.	Bernadette	Ken S.	Chrissy B.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Ruth H.	Eden S.	Rueben A.	Ruth H.	Eden S.
LEM (Chalice)	David K.	Ruth H.	Rob & Kristin W.	Bernadette	Chrissy B.
Acolyte & Crucifer					
Usher / Greeters		Rebecca S.	Joe Z.	Rebecca	
Altar Guild	Cathy G.	Chrissy B.	Chris M.	Ruth H.	Cathy G.
Home Communion					
Vestry Counters					

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 –January 2021

TO:

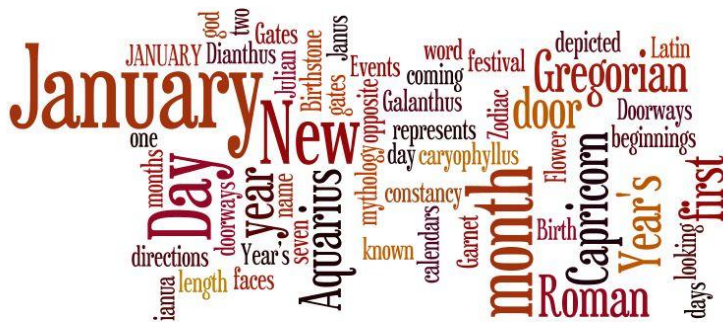
St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church

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P.O. Box 940516, Simi Valley CA 93094

Phone (805)526-5141

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



Sunday Service:

10:15 am

Wednesdays

- 10 am Healing Service