

# The Franciscan



March 2022

● **Diocesan Bishop** ●

*John Harvey Taylor*

● **Our Vicar** ●

*The Rev. Sarah Kitch*  
[stfrancis.simi@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancis.simi@gmail.com)

● **The Bishop's Committee** ●

- Bishop's Warden  
Amy Brown
- Junior Warden  
Dan McCarty
- Finance  
Sam Anusiem
- Clerk/ Communications  
Ruth Haskins
- Service/Outreach  
Gerri Harrington
- Fellowship/Outreach  
Cathy Grimes
- Worship
- Pastoral Care

**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." ...*



... Continued pg. 2

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES**

Ash Wednesday Services will be held outside on the St Francis Patio.

**Services will be held at UPDATED TIMES:  
10:15 am, 12:15 pm & 6:15 pm**

*10:15 am Service will take place of the regularly Scheduled healing service*



**VERNAL EQUINOX DRUMMING CIRCLE**

Welcome in the Spring with an outdoor drumming circle service as we gather around the fire pit. Re-energize, Gather, Renew –

**Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm**  
*(Outside the Sunday school building)*



# From Our Vicar...

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*“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 spouse. (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!!**



*Shelby*

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*“Self-fulfillment, Jesus says, comes through letting go, relinquishing our need to control and define, to manipulate and possess. Self-fulfillment comes through laying down our lives in obedience to God’s deepest yearnings for us.”*

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The above quote from Brother David Vryhof of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist in Boston, Massachusetts, seems very appropriate for the month of March as we lean into Lent.

“Lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencton* – meaning “spring” or “lengthening” from the time of year when the days grow long. In 2022, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (March 2) and ends with the Easter Triduum (Maundy Thursday through Easter Day), covering 40 days (excluding Sundays which are little feasts of the Resurrection). Some believe that the word “Lent” may derive from the Latin *lentare*, which means “to bend.” This understanding reinforces a sense of Lent as a time of preparation for personal and collective transformation. Having nurtured ourselves through Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, Lent becomes the time to look truthfully at ourselves and make changes.

This is our opportunity to take a look truthfully at ourselves and move into developing changes and growth. As we quiet ourselves during this Season, we listen more to the Holy Spirit, and the nudges that get our attention. We might consider our readings and take time to reflect and practice Lectio Divina (Holy Reading) during this time, reading a passage and asking “what catches my attention?” We might hold a time of quiet prayer as a discipline this Lent or participate with Centering Prayer or our Taize Service.

However, we enter into this Season of reflection and self-introspection with God, it is a time that we lay down our lives of busyness and bustle and let our deepest yearnings be attended. What is it that you long for? What is it that doesn’t seem to be resolved or reconciled in your life?

Take this Season quietly and intentionally. Let the Holy Spirit guide you as you seek God and give God your heart, once again, to God’s great Love. Peace be with you always.

## **Liturgy Lexicon for Lent**

Lexicon: *the vocabulary of a person or language.*

You will notice in our Lenten Bulletin that we have chosen some different wording for some of the phrases we are familiar with and have said since we were baptized. In the Lord's Prayer for instance, a very familiar part of the liturgy that we have memorized we are choosing to use the Contemporary version from the Book of Common Prayer.

Ever notice how much the vocabulary, the lexicon of the liturgy carries with it a masculine pronoun? Is God male? What is the message we are sending when we say these words by rote without thinking about what we are communicating? Who are we including and who are we excluding? Words are like suitcases. They carry with them images and vestiges of clothing that may or may not fit anymore, or at least, need to be altered. Maybe we haven't ever thought about this before.

That is part of the Lenten Discipline that we are growing. It may be a new idea or a larger concept of our image of God, our relationship with God, our neighbor and ourselves. Language is one way that can stir us as we think about what we are communicating in our worship.

We welcome growing together.

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## **Stay Connected With Us!**

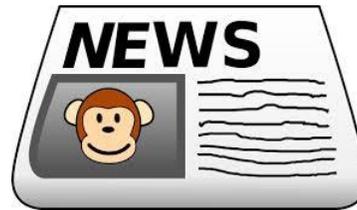
- Pastoral Care through the church office (805)526-5141
- Pastoral Care via email [Stfrancis.simi@gmail.com](mailto:Stfrancis.simi@gmail.com)
- Keep up through the St. Francis Website <https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/>
- Sunday Worship Live Streamed - link in the St. Francis Weekly
  - Remember to keep in touch with each other through the Phone Tree
  - 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>

## Coming Up:

- Women's Retreat Sign-ups Open
- ECW is Collecting Toys for Hillside
- Mardi Gras Great Gumbo Cook-off
- **UPDATED TIMES:** Ash Wednesday Services
- **UPDATED INFO:** Lenten Study
- Vernal Equinox Drumming Circle



### 2022 Women's Retreat

The 2022 Women's' Retreat will be held at Holy Spirit Retreat Center in Encino, California. If you have never gone and are interested in learning more about Holy Spirit or the retreat itself, please ask me or Leslie Lonergan. Many of the women in the congregation have gone in the past so you could very well find someone sitting right next to you that you can ask! The grounds at Holy Spirit offer a restful location where you will 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 March 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>**, the retreat starts with dinner on Friday evening and ends on Sunday after lunch. *The cost for the 2 night stay, which includes 6 meals; will be \$250 for a double room and \$290 for a single. Right now, due to Covid, we may be asked to do single rooms. We will keep you updated on this when we get confirmation.*

**There is a signup sheet at the church or you can contact me at (805)358-4438 or by email at:**

[patriciaudell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patriciaudell@sbcglobal.net).

Hope to see you there for a fun, relaxing weekend!



**Ash Wednesday Services will be held  
outside on the St Francis Patio**

**Services will be @  
10:15 am, 12:15 pm & 6:15 pm**

*Each service includes Eucharist and  
Distribution of Ashes.*

***If cold; 6:15 pm Service may move inside.  
The 10:15 am Service will be held in place of  
the regularly calendared Healing Service.***



### **LENTEN STUDY 2022**

**Join Rev Sarah & David Kitch  
in person on the PATIO!**

*Bring a lunch or light snack and your questions!  
Whether about the sermon, the lectionary, the  
Episcopal Church – What ever is on your mind,  
bring it to the table.*

**All Are Welcome...**



### **February 1st - March 31st**

The ECW will be gathering unwrapped toys for children of all ages.

The toys collected will be given to Hillside in support of their program and aides in providing gifts year-round for birthdays and special occasions for the children in their care.

Learn more about Hillside and other ways to get involved [here](#).

**A collection box is located in the Sanctuary.  
Any questions: Please ask Sylvia Moya**

#### **February News You May Have Missed:**

- **Masks Mandates have been lifted for those who are vaccinated.**



### **Vernal Equinox Drumming Circle**

*Re-energize, Renew, and Gather around the fire pit as we form a drumming circle to welcome the spring.*

The darkness of winter fades; giving light; revealing the "greening" of the vernal spring.

We invite you into the connectivity as we celebrate this seasonal change and look ahead to the season unfolding. What better way than gathered around the fire pit under the night sky?

**We will begin at 5pm, March 20<sup>th</sup>  
on the Sunday School Picnic Benches  
under the evening sky.**

### **TAIZE SERVICES DURING LENT EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6:00**

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 Lent to allow ourselves a pause and reflection during this season. Services are at 6:00 without Eucharist. This service offers some time to take some quiet and reflect upon the meaning of our lives and what Lent means to us. **All are welcome.**

**Parish Prayer Needs:**

**Healing:** Barbara, 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, Alan and Alan's family, Kevin, Eve, Amy, Judy, Bernadette.



**St. Francis Book Club**

We are forming a new book club!  
Anyone who would like to join us should contact me:  
Chris M at 805.276.4971

Go to [smile.amazon.com/ch/95-2558848](https://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 an ongoing need. The Baby Closet is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12noon -1pm and is collecting DIAPERS SIZE 5,6,7 and has a HUGE need for BABY WIPES and Size 6&7 diapers.

Words without feelings  
Are like bells without clappers,  
Muted and hollow.

*-Haiku by Diantha Ain*

*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.

The Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce & St. Francis Episcopal Church Present

*Mardi Gras*  
**GUMBO COOKOFF**  
*and Mixer!*



**MARCH**  
**01**  
FAT TUESDAY

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM • St. Francis Episcopal Church • 280 Royal Ave.

Enjoy a night of bayou filled fun with games, music, networking, drinks, and GUMBO tastings!



**SIMI VALLEY**  
**CHAMBER**  
The Heartbeat of Business

St. Francis of Assisi  
Episcopal Church 



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> <b>MARDI GRAS GUMBO COOKOFF</b> <b>5-7 PM</b>	<b>2 ASH WED</b> 9am-1 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  8 pm AA PH	<b>5</b> Wedding
<b>6</b> David Kitch Preaching Eucharist with Music  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>7</b>  8 pm Men's AA	<b>8</b>  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women AA	<b>9</b> 9am-1 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  8 pm AA PH	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>14</b>  8 pm Men's AA	<b>15</b>  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women AA	<b>16</b> 9am-1 pm Office Hr. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 6 pm W.R. HOA 7:30 pm AA PH	<b>17</b>  6 pm H.H. HOA	<b>18</b>  8 pm AA PH	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>21</b>  8 pm Men's AA	<b>22</b>  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women AA	<b>23</b> 9am-1 pm Office Hr. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service  7:30 pm AA PH	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  8 pm AA PH	<b>26</b> Private Event
<b>27</b> Rev. Susan Klein Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>28</b>  8 pm Men's AA	<b>29</b>  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women AA	<b>30</b> 9am-1 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	<b>31</b>		

### RECYCLING AT ST FRANCIS

Please bring in your Recycling on the **last Sunday of the month** – we'll put those cans and bottles to good use!

# March 2022 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Mar 6	Mar. 13	Mar. 20	Mar. 27	April 3
<b>Lector (O.T./Psalm)</b>	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Peggy S.	
<b>Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)</b>	Gerri H.	Reuben A.	Susan S.	Tony F.	
<b>LEM</b>	Lisa N.	Tracy H.	Chrissy B.	David K.	
<b>Usher / Greeter</b>	Reuben A.	Rebecca S.	Tony F.	Joe Z.	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Cathy G.	Chrissy B.	Chris M.	Gerri H.	
<b>Preaching</b>	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev.S.Klein	

# April 2022 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24	May 1
<b>Lector (O.T./Psalm)</b>	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Peggy S.	
<b>Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)</b>	Gerri H.	Reuben A.	Susan S.	Tony F.	
<b>LEM</b>	Lisa N.	Tracy H.	Chrissy B.	David K.	
<b>Usher / Greeter</b>	Tony F.	Rebecca S.	Reuben A.	Joe Z.	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Cathy G.	Chrissy B.	Chris M.	Gerri H.	
<b>Preaching</b>	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev.Sarah	

# The Franciscan

## Newsletter – March 2022

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church  
280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065  
Phone 805.526.5141  
[www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org](http://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org)

**TO:**



**Sunday Services:**

10:15 am

**Wednesdays:**

10 am Healing Service

**Ash Wednesday:**

10:15 am, 12:15 pm & 6:15pm