

The Franciscan



The Bishop's Committee

From our Vicar... March 2017



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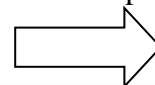
"Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, 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 be drenched deeply with the rain. 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.



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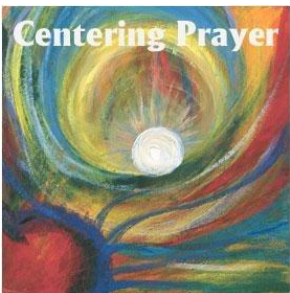


(Continued from page 1)

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!



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.



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!

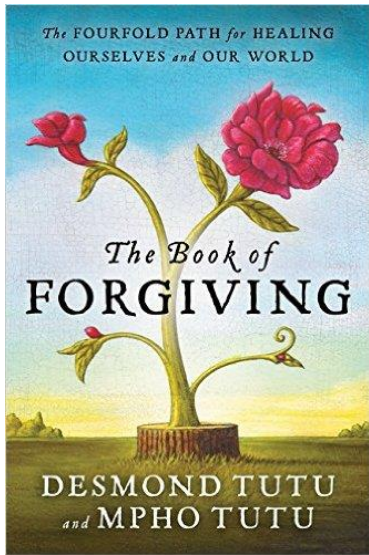
Sign up to bring a pot of your secret recipe Gumbo, Jambalaya or other Cajun specialty. We'll also have rice, salad and bread, topped off by decadent desserts.
Mac & cheese served, too.

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





CHOOSE LIFE!

This year's Lenten Study is entitled "*Choose Life! Forgiveness: What it is -- What it isn't -- Why our quality of life depends on it.*"

The program will include video clips, teaching, and guided discussion. We will be sourcing material from Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu's work on this important subject. Their jointly authored work *The Book of Forgiving* will be a key resource. You do not need the book to participate. However, if you would like a copy we would be happy to order them for you. The cost is \$15 and you would need to let us know by Monday, February 27.

This will comprise our Lenten Soup Supper experience this year for five Wednesday evenings, March 8 thru April 5. You may attend all or some of the sessions, as your life-n-times permit. We will begin the light soup supper at 6:15 each evening and we will finish by 8.

We hope you will be able to take advantage of this opportunity!



Thank you so much to my church family for supporting Girl Scouts and buying cookies! The sales are going well and I still have a few more boxes if anyone would like them. Peanut Butter Patties, Carmel deLites, Gluten-Free Trios and Shortbread. Last chance -they don't come back again until next year! ([805 501-5203](tel:8055015203)) Esther Swoish



With the strength of
stone
And the gentleness of
rain,
I shall live my life.
Diantha Ain

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.

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.



ECW Potato Dinner

All are welcome to join us on
March 18, at 6:30 pm.

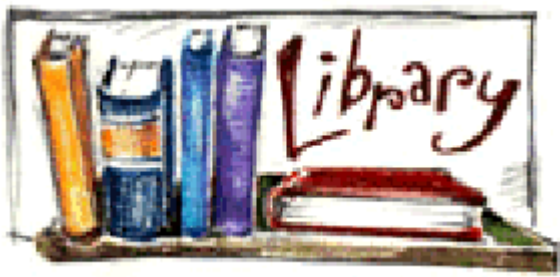
Only \$10 per person for a potato
and all of the fixings!



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.



Lent Meditations

In the basket for the Library are Lenten Devotions and Meditations. Please avail yourself of these opportunities for Lenten reflection. Happy Adventure!



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.

Come to the edge, he said.
They said, We are afraid.
Come to the edge, he said.
They came.
He pushed them. . .
And they flew.

Peter Williams
1949-2000



Round Up Simi Valley Country Music Festival

April 1, 2017 11am - 7pm
Rancho Simi Park

With two stages for music, this is a fun way to kick off the Spring season. A full day of family fun, food, drinks and dancing along with about a dozen live bands.

For the first time St Francis will be participating to raise money for the church and associated ministries by selling pulled pork sandwiches to hungry guests. A special thanks for Steve Bayles for letting St Francis use the equipment from Smokin Steve's BBQ to do the event.

We will need at least eight volunteers for the day to help in either the morning or afternoon, if interested please email me at stfranciissimi.eventoffice@gmail.com.

Adult ticket are \$25 each and kids are free. You can read more about the event and purchase tickets at roundupsimi.com, there are also VIP tickets available where our very own Steve Bayles will be serving his delicious BBQ. See you there!

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
The Season of Lent			1 9am-2pm Office Hrs Ash Wednesday 10 am, 12:15 pm 6 pm Services with Ashes & Eucharist 7:30 pm Men's AA Clare Room	2 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	3 Office Closed DOK Women's Retreat Weekend ⇒ 8 pm AA Church	4
5 Lent 1 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 6 pm Soup Supper & Lent Service 7:30 pm Men's AA Clare Room	9 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	10 Office Closed 8 pm AA Church	11
12 Lent 2 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 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 6 pm Soup Supper & Lent Service 7:30 pm Men's AA Clare Room	16 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Franciscan Articles Due 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	17 St. Patrick's Day Office Closed 8 pm AA Church	18 6:30 pm ECW Potato Dinner
19 Lent 3 10:15 Eucharist with Music & Sunday School Belize Collection Noon BC Meeting 6:30 Men's AA PH	20 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study 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 6 pm Soup Supper & Lent Service 7:30 pm Men's AA Clare Room	23 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	24 Office Closed 8 pm AA Church	25
26 Lent 4 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. 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	29 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 6 pm Soup Supper & Lent Service 7:30 pm Men's AA Clare Room	30 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	31 Office Closed 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**
- **Jelly (grape, strawberry, any kind for sandwiches)**
- **Peanut Butter**
- **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

March 2017

	5	12	19	26	
10am	Edie F.	Gerri H.	Jennifer A.	Cora R..	

April 2017

	2	9	16	23	30
10am		Palm Sunday	Easter		Kovacevich Family

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.

March 2017 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26	April 2
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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.	Jan J.	David K.	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 Emma	Brian Wesley	Andrew Rachel
Usher / Greeters	Tony F. Rebecca S.	Tony F. Rebecca S.	David S. Jr. Tony F.	Joe Z.	Tony F. Rebecca S.
Altar Guild	Megan A.	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. Susan S.	Tom B. Scott E.	Vicky B. Kathy B.	Amy B. Bernadette	Scott E. Amy R.

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!

April 2017 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	April 2	April 9 Palm Sunday	April 16 Easter	April 23 David K. Preaching	April 30
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.	Esther D.	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	Scott E. Amy R.	Bernadette Susan S.	Vicky B. Kathy B.	Cathy G. Scott E.	Kathy T. Tom 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!

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#StartWithaSmile at smile.amazon.com/ch/95-2558848 and Amazon donates to St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church.

**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 – March 2017

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Sunday Service:

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

Wednesdays

- **10 am Healing Service**