



The Franciscan



March 2024

● **Diocesan Bishop** ●

The Rt Rev John Taylor

● **Our Vicar** ●

The Rev. Sarah Kitch
stfrancis.simi@gmail.com

● **The Bishop's Committee** ●

- *Bishop's Warden*
Amy Brown
- *Junior Warden*
Dan McCarty
- *Finance*
Sam Anusiem
- *Clerk*
Cathy Grimes
- *Communications*
Doug Onyon
- *Pastoral Care*
Tracy Hurst
- *Service/Outreach*
Gerri Harrington
- *Worship*
Chris McCarty

From Our Vicar...

That is what Easter is all about. We will experience and give ourselves the opportunity to walk through Holy Week and walk the way of the cross. We will taste the disillusionment of betrayal, and suffering, and will hold the exaltation of Christ Risen.

... Read Article on pg.2

PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Breakdown of all services and service times – *Let's Celebrate Together!*

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280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065

Email: stfrancis.simi@gmail.com

www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org

office- 805.526.5141

fax- 805.520.3819

From Our Vicar...

By the time you read this article, it won't quite be Easter, but we'll be close. Indeed, it is the cornerstone of our faith. We are a people who believe in the Risen Christ and Alleluia is our song.

As we celebrate Easter, I wonder what will be different for us this year. You know the Good News of the Gospel is Christ is Alive. That is the significant pillar of our Christian faith. We can do good deeds in and respond with good words, but at the end of the day, our faith is about God's Grace given to us through Jesus Christ. Not only do we follow Christ's teaching but more essential is that we believe that God is alive. God is present with us in this moment as you are reading this and in the next. God is present in worship and at work. God is present in silence and song. God is present in moments when we are alone and when we are together.

That is what Easter is all about. We will experience and give ourselves the opportunity to walk through Holy Week and walk the way of the cross. We will taste the disillusionment of betrayal, and suffering, and will hold the exaltation of Christ Risen.

My friends, this is the center of our faith as Christians. And the question is, what difference does it make in our everyday life? Can we consider at the end of a day and wonder where we saw God present in our life? Was it through a kindness extended to us? Maybe it was in nature that we saw a beautiful flower or butterfly. Perhaps it was just a small, still whisper of how we are deeply loved. Do we reflect at day's end and think, "Where did I see God today?" If we believe that God is present we are missing something if we don't take time to notice!

That is our work. Perhaps this is an intention that we might make for ourselves this Easter. Giving ourselves time at the end of the day, in the middle of the day, to reflect for a few moments. How has God been present to me? Can we live intentionally looking for God's Grace all around us? Even the breath we breathe, giving our thanksgiving and gratitude for being alive.

What will be different for us this Easter? Will we take time to notice God's presence anew in our surroundings? Does it make a difference that God is alive in our families, in our work places, in our worship?

The challenge for us is that Easter is not just a day --- it's our life!

We are a people who believe in the Risen Christ and Alleluia is our song.

Happy Easter!



Stay Connected With Us!

- Pastoral Care through the church office (805)526-5141
- Pastoral Care via email stfrancis.simi@gmail.com
- Keep up through the St. Francis Website <https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/>
- Sunday Worship In-Person 10:15 AM & Live Streamed - links in the St. Francis Weekly
 - 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>

Parish Healing Prayer Needs:

Barbara, Reina, Sylvia, Brody, Avalon, Shantel, Scott, Lee, Michael, Kim, Jean, Braydon, Fr. Steve, Al, Mary, Yvonne, Dee, Jeff, Jim, Bill & Leslie, Jamie, Jan, David, Lee, Trish, Sue, Tony, Mark, Michele, Eric, Louise, Bob & family, Edith, Howard, Mary, Donna, J.D., Frances, Patrick, Margaret, Beverly, Margie, Alan, Kevin, Eve, Amy, Judy, Bernadette, Arianna, Pam, Sammie, Gerri, Steven, John, Tiffany, Leo, David, Henry, Cheryl, Ana, Susan, Peggy.

Be sure to vote

The California Primary Election is Tuesday, March 5. Ballots have been mailed to all Ventura County registered voters and must be returned and postmarked by March 5.

Ballot drop boxes are available until 8 p.m. March 5 and Vote Center locations are open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., March 2 to March 4 and on Election Day, March 5 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Have a question? Contact www.VenturaVote.org

ECW – Episcopal Church Women –

Please contact Sylvia or Pat Udell if interested in joining in.

We're
Collecting
TOYS for
Hillsides.

Drive ends
March 31st.



Interested in Joining a Book Club?

Contact Chris McCarty for details.

Baby Shower Sundays

4th Sunday of the Month

Please bring your diapers, wipes and baby toiletries in support of the Baby Closet on the 4th Sunday of the Month to help support the Baby Closet and their needs.

If you have any questions or are interested in getting involved, please speak with

Gerri Harrington or Rev. Sarah.

The Baby Closet is open weekly

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 am – 11am

Meet Gerri Harrington *by Doug Onyon*

Gerri's early life as a self-described "military brat" has led her to an adult life of adventure, professional accomplishment, a respect for many different people and cultures, and service through a commitment to helping others.

Born in Boston, Mass., the daughter of an Air Force serviceman, Gerri moved with her family to California in 1961 having already lived in Florida, Colorado, New Mexico, New Jersey and Arkansas. She is an avid sports fan whether its tennis, baseball or basketball cheering enthusiastically for the Boston Celtics, the Golden State Warriors, the UCLA Bruins and, of course, her beloved Boston Red Sox.

Gerri, widowed since 1990, is the proud mother of her two children -- Christopher and Cindy.

She began her 30-year career as a UCLA employee where she was program coordinator for the Center for International & Strategic Affairs; division administrator at the Mental Retardation Research Center, Medical Center; and administrative analyst at the Injury Prevention Research Center, School of Public Health.

Over the years, it certainly wasn't all work for Gerri. She loves to travel and has been all over the world visiting such diverse places as Hong Kong, Ireland, England, Canada, Turkey, Greece, Israel, France, Italy, Spain, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana.

After retiring, Gerri's commitment to social justice causes and organizations led her to volunteer work at the Samaritan Center and then to St. Francis. She was drawn by her beliefs and by her faith to the diversity of the congregation and felt very much at home. She is now a member of St. Francis' Bishop's Committee (Service/Outreach). Her volunteer work at the Samaritan Center and her joining St. Francis eventually led in 2018 to the formation of the Baby Closet, supported under the ministry of St. Francis.

We at St. Francis, and the hundreds and hundreds of families that the Baby Closet has served over the years, are very grateful for Gerri's commitment and service.

Baby Closet *by Doug Onyon*

The Baby Closet provides a much-needed service to Simi Valley families. It partners with the Simi Valley Samaritan Center to help meet the needs of homeless and low-income families. It is open Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-11 a.m. It is focused on meeting the needs of babies and toddlers providing clothing, blankets, diapers and assorted baby toiletries and hygiene products including: baby wipes, body wash, shampoo, lotion, ointment, baby powder, etc. Clothing is limited to baby and toddler sizes ranging from newborn to toddler size 6.

The Baby Closet is non-profit and is totally dependent on donations and volunteer workers. It receives donations through the Samaritan Center, the Simi Valley Women's Club and from donations from St. Francis members. **Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Gerri Harrington.**

March 2024 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	Bernadette
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Reuben A.	Suzanne L.	Chrissy B.	Gerri H.	Suzanne L
LEM	Lisa N.	Chrissy B. Evie M.	Tracy H.	Rob W. Kristin W.	Chrissy B.
Usher / Greeter	Ted W.	Reuben A.	Joe Z.	Rebecca S	Ted W.
Altar Guild	Gerri H.	Chrissy B.	Tracy H.	Cathy G.	Chris M.
Preaching	Arch Deacon The Venerable Laura Siriani	David K.	Rev Sarah	David K.	Rev Sarah

April 2024 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28	
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Reuben A.	Suzanne L.	Chrissy B.	Gerri H.	
LEM	Lisa N. Evie M.	Kerri-Jo H.	Tracy H.	Chrissy B.	
Usher / Greeter	Ted W.	Reuben A.	Joe Z.	Rebecca S	
Altar Guild	Gerri H.	Cathy G.	Chrissy B.	Chris M.	
Preaching	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.	

Please let the Church Office know if you are unable to serve on your scheduled day. Thank you for Serving!

Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday – Outside/Inside: 10:15 am March 24th with Potluck Luncheon after service

Catholic and Protestant communities celebrate Palm Sunday. (The Orthodox Christian community celebrates later as they follow the Julian calendar – a week later.) This marks the beginning of Holy Week, historically the most sacred time of year for Christians.

Palm Sunday recalls an event in the Christian Scripture (The New Testament) of Jesus entering into Jerusalem and being greeted by the people waving palm branches. (Matthew 21:1-9, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-38, John 12:12-19)

The service on Palm Sunday also includes a reading of the Passion, that is, the story of the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus' death is seen by Christians as salvation and as a reminder of how prophets are often killed when they stand for justice and peace.

Holy Week

Holy Thursday (referred to as Maundy Thursday after the Latin mandatum or command to love one another) is a day when Christians commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus. (*Matthew 26: 17-35, Mark 14: 12-31, Luke 22: 7-23, John 13: 21-30*). In some traditions, there is the washing of the feet of various members of the community to recall a gesture of Christ at the Last Supper when he washed the feet of his disciples. – **Agape Feast and Maundy Thursday Service at 7 pm March 28th**

Good Friday March 29th is a solemn day on which Christians recall the death of Jesus and its promise of hope and new life. (*Matthew 27: 32-56, Mark 15: 21-41, Luke 23:26-49, John 19: 17-30*).

Other people make the **Stations of the Cross 2:30 pm service** a devotion that recalls the journey of Jesus on the Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrows) in Jerusalem to Calvary where he was crucified. (In Jerusalem the place of Christ's death and resurrection is commemorated inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.)

The word *Tenebrae* is Latin for "shadows" or "darkness." It can also be translated as "night" or "death." The Tenebrae service is an ancient tradition in Christian history that took place on one of the last three days of Holy Week: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, or Holy Saturday. The purpose of this service was to remember the somber events that occurred in Jesus' life from the exuberant entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday through the night of Jesus' burial on Good Friday. **7pm Tenebrae Service**

Easter -10:15am Service followed by Egg Hunt and Easter Brunch

Easter Sunday is the greatest feast in the Christian calendar. While our society puts a major emphasis on Christmas, no other day is traditionally as sacred for the Christian community as Easter. This is the day Christians commemorate the resurrection of Christ. (*Matthew 28:1-15, Mark 1: 1-8, Luke 24:1-12, John 20: 1-10*).

In some traditions, the services begin the night before with the lighting of a new fire and the blessing of a large Easter candle. Water is blessed and many are baptized. But for all Christians, this is a day to renew one's faith.

Easter usually ends with festive celebrations with special foods and Easter delicacies.

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 ECW MTG 8 pm AA PH	2 PRIVATE EVENT
3 Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Lenten Study 6:30 Men's AA PH 2-5 Mtg Clare Rm	4 Samaritan Dinner 8 pm Men's AA	5 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	6 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 6:00 pm Taize 7:30 pm AA PH	7 Baby Closet 10-11 PRIVATE EVENT 7 pm NA Clare Rm 6 pm H.H. HOA	8 8 pm AA PH	9
10 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Lenten Study 6:30 Men's AA PH	11 8 pm Men's AA	12 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm	13 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 6:00 pm Taize 6 pm W.R. HOA 7:30 pm AA PH	14 Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm NA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	15 8 pm AA PH	16 PRIVATE EVENT
17 Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music ECW Potatoes Lenten Study 6:30 Men's AA PH	18 8 pm Men's AA	19 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	20 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 6:00 pm Vernal Equinox 7:30 pm AA PH	21 Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm NA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	22 8 pm AA PH	23
24 PALM SUNDAY David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music POTLUCK 6:30 Men's AA PH	25 8 pm Men's AA	26 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	27 NO Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY AGAPE FEAST 7PM Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm NA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	29 GOOD FRIDAY Stations of the Cross 2:30 PM Tenebrae 7 PM 8 pm AA PH	30
31 EASTER Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Brunch and Egg Hunt						

Getting to know you . . . and each other

St. Francis is much more than a congregation. It's a group of individuals in a fellowship . . . a community . . . a family. As family members it would be great to know each other better and share what is going on in each of our busy lives.

So, briefly tell us what's happening with you and your family --- your births, family weddings, job promotions, graduations, new jobs, vacations, accomplishments, life events . . . you name it and we'd like to share it in the monthly "Franciscan".

Just e-mail your happenings to Doug Onyon at stfrancis.simi@gmail.com and let's get to know each other better!

St. Francis Turns 30! What's pictured here?

St. Francis's archives have numerous photographs from throughout the years. Many of these photos have no identification as to when they were taken or what and who are in them. Do you know?

If you have any information about this photo, please e-mail it to Doug Onyon at stfrancis.simi@gmail.com

Look for more photos to be identified in the future.



We've started off with an easy one. For those who have been here longer - especially those who are IN the photo, name each person left to right AND identify WHAT the occasion was and the YEAR.

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Newsletter – March 2024

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065
Phone 805.526.5141
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TO:

Join Us:

- ◆ Sunday Service: 10:15 am
- ◆ Wednesdays:
 - 10 am Healing Service
 - 6 pm Lenten Taizé

Holy Week Schedule-

- ◆ Palm Sunday: 10:15 am
- ◆ Maundy Thursday: 7:00 pm
- ◆ Good Friday:
 - 2:30 pm Stations of the Cross
 - 7:00 pm Tenebrae Service
- ◆ Easter Sunday: 10:15 am

