

# The Franciscan



## The Bishop's Committee



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## From our Vicar... March 2016

If we are seeking a discipline during Lent, may we seek such a practice moving forward and deeper in our relationship with Jesus.

In other words, whatever we choose, may it bring us forward in our spiritual growth. I am inclined to hope that the time I spend not doing something is releasing me to find a discovery and surprise in greater relationship with all that I love.

I was reflecting on this in terms of relationships that are particularly meaningful. I long to make time to be with these relationships. I laugh easily with them. I am vulnerable. I am fully alive to find new things about them and myself. Shouldn't it be as such as we delve into a deeper spirituality?

Jesus teaches us about God and himself in such simple ways. He says "consider the birds", "consider the lilies." If we let ourselves pay attention to what is around us in our life, how are those things speaking to us of our love relationship with Jesus? Are we falling in love with Jesus everyday through a sunset, a kind word spoken to us, a hug, a loving smile from someone? That's Jesus all around us.

I want to make lots of room in my life so I can notice and see these things. That's what Lent is all about. When I do create such space, I experience resurrection in my heart, soul and mind. I live freer. I am more alive to God being alive!!

Easter isn't just a moment. It is a life awakening. God is alive. And we are a dancing people that believe in the mystery of this life in our lives day after day after day. *Alleluia.*



As we move through Lent together, I am at once aware of the significance of our personal journey over the past and coming weeks and our shared experience at Saint Francis. Mardi Gras was a lovely evening with wonderful food prepared by Tom and Kathy Butler. Thursday evening Lenten Study has begun and is led by David Kitch. The lessons include a video portion followed by discussion. The presentation style makes it possible to attend some Thursday evenings, and not all if you are unable. Everyone is welcome. On another note, the new Bishop's Committee met on February 6 and began the process of identifying our roles within the committee for the year. We look forward to supporting our church and mission. My personal thanks go out to those serving on the committee; your time and service to our church is greatly appreciated by all.

Best wishes ,

Amy Brown, Senior Warden

### 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 and have said since we were baptized. In the Doxology for instance, a very familiar part of the liturgy that we have memorized and don't even think about what we are communicating. We say, "Praise God for whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost." Ever notice how much the vocabulary, the lexicon of the Doxology 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. If you have questions or are stirred by these alterations in this Season of Lent, please talk with Vicar Sarah. We welcome growing together.

### Parish Prayer Needs:

**Please keep the Perry Family in prayer.**

**Music Program:** Pray for more regular singers.

**Healing:** Rev. Barbara Mudge, Jean, Braydon (baby born with half a heart), Hank, Fr. Steve, Al, Mary, Rich, Yvonne, Joy, VanNessa, Dee, Jeff, Jim, Jan, David, Margie, Jan, Lee, Trish, Sue, the wife of Wayne, Tony, Mark, Michele, Eric, Louise, Jean, Tony, Bob & family, Edith, Rana, Howard, Mary, Donna.

**Our elderly and chronically ill:** Dolores, Bill and Jean, Pat, Donna, Eva, Yvonne, Mary, Anne, Harry, Ethel, Phil, Martha.

**Comfort and Strength:** Perry Family, Shiver family, Donna, Mike & Jennifer, Susan, Lou, Diana, Angela, George, Derek, Beth, Jennifer, Debbie and Dale, The Jones Family, The Anusiem Family, all clients of the Samaritan Center, Barbara, Shirley's family, Pearl's family, Tom's family, Mary Hyatt.

## Members and News

### St. Francis Lenten Series 2016

#### "Faith Encounters"

For our Lenten series this year we will screen three powerful films about the life of faith on Thursday evenings. We will use these as an opportunity to reflect on our personal and communal Lenten journeys. We will begin with a simple soup supper in the parish hall followed by each film being screened in two parts.

Soup Supper: 6.00

Screening: 6.45 — 7.30

Reflection: 7.30 — 8.00

- Feb. 11 > Session 1 Dietrich Bonhoeffer — Part One
- Feb. 18 > Session 2 Dietrich Bonhoeffer — Part Two
- Feb. 25 > Session 3 God on Trial — Part One
- Mar. 3 > Session 4 God on Trial — Part Two
- Mar. 10 > Session 5 Chaplains — Part One
- Mar. 17 > Session 6 Chaplains — Part Two

(NOTE: The "Chaplains" sessions, 5 & 6, will run 15 minutes longer due to the length of the film.)

**\*\*\* It should be noted that these films treat serious subjects. Some of the material will not be suitable for young children. Please see Vicar Sarah or David if you have questions.**

#### Feb. 11 & 18

#### ***BONHOEFFER—Pastor, Pacifist, Nazi Resister***

A documentary film by Martin Doblmeier.

"Powerful and shocking..." —*NY Times*

"An heroic odyssey illuminated with admirable clarity." —*LA Times*

This critically acclaimed documentary classic tells the dramatic story of one of the great Christian figures of the last century – Dietrich Bonhoeffer. A triumph when it was released theatrically to capacity crowds, the film brings to life the man who was beloved pastor, prophetic writer and Nazi resister.

We will watch this wonderful film in two parts and reflect on how Dietrich Bonhoeffer's faith journey may relate to us now.

<http://journeyfilms.com/media/>

#### Feb. 25 & Mar. 3

#### ***GOD ON TRIAL***

A Masterpiece Theatre

Production/PBS

"... a gripping exploration of faith and reason... Remarkable" —*Time Out (London)*

"Powerful and thoughtful..." —*The Guardian (UK)*

Elie Wiesel, survivor of Auschwitz, wrote of an event that took place while he was in the camp when a group of rabbis decided to put God on trial for what was happening. This film is a powerful dramatic interpretation of this trial.

Since this is a drama, you will want to be sure to see both parts. We will reflect on how this film might help us think about Lent.

#### Mar. 10 & Mar. 17

#### ***CHAPLAINS***

A new 2-hour documentary film that takes the viewer into the dynamic world of chaplains – men and women who represent their own particular faith tradition but are trained to be of comfort and support to everyone – religious or not.

With a tradition dating back centuries, chaplains today are on the front lines – often in the midst of life and death situations – where the questions are the deepest and the need for spiritual and pastoral care the greatest.

Your vicar and her husband are chaplains! We will conclude our series with a reflection on how faith is expressed in the larger community.

<http://journeyfilms.com/chaplains/#aboutchaplains>



## Mardi Gras Party

St. Francis held it's annual Mardi Gras party on February 9th, the day before Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. In true Mardi Gras fashion, everyone enjoyed the wonderful food, including gumbo, mac and cheese, salads, decadent desserts, beer, and wine. Our own Derek Silbermann played lively tunes and the Parish Hall was decorated in bright colors of green, purple and gold, traditional Mardi Gras colors.

King and Queen of Mardi Gras were crowned, this year Roger Paul and Jan Jones were so honored. Thank you to all who came and celebrated and those who brought food and drink, a fun time was had by all!



## Palm Sunday BBQ, March 20<sup>th</sup>

Even though it seems like Lent just started, Palm Sunday is almost around the corner.

The Youth will again host a BBQ following the Palm Sunday service, on March 20th. Please plan to join us for tri-tip sandwiches, hot dogs, side dishes, and desserts. The Youth will take the proceeds from this event and donate it to St. Francis ministries. We hope to see you all there!



## STEWARDSHIP SORTINGS

Thank you all for returning your pledges so promptly. We are grateful so many have committed this year to the ministry of St. Francis and all that God has for us. As you saw in the Annual Meeting Budget, we are pledging \$177,000 for operating and ministry costs.

Remember that we are seeking donations for our LANDSCAPING, as we will need to continue to replace sprinklers and begin to redesign areas for drought tolerant planting. Would you please pray for this need and participate with us as we steward the property of St. Francis?

We seek to consider Stewardship all year round as we invest in all that God is doing here. It is a privilege to serve all the opportunities that we have here at St. Francis.

# ECW Episcopal Church Women



The ECW has the Hillside's Box up at the altar for donations of new unwrapped toys for children 0 to 18 years old. We will be collecting from January to March. Anything is appreciated. These toys are to be used for birthdays throughout the year.

We meet the 1st Friday of every month in the church parish hall at 6:30 and would love to have you join us.

Sylvia Moya

## ECW Potato Dinner



Yes, it is that time again that the ECW will host the Potato Dinner on Saturday, March 19, starting at 6:30 pm. There will be LARGE baked potatoes with all of the toppings of your choice. The cost is only \$12 per person or \$30 per family. Come join us in the Parish Hall for some yummy dinner and fellowship. Looking forward to seeing you all there!



### BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY...

has a great following each Monday at 12:00 to study the scriptures for the following Sunday. The group asks questions, seeks to delve deeply into understanding the scriptures and enjoys the fellowship and lunch together. If you are available, please join us in the Clare Room at 12 noon where David Kitch will be teaching and sharing about the text for the week.

## Library News



During the Lenten Season, the library is highlighting several books that help us with our Lenten Journey. There are two that are family orientated and several more that have daily readings. As I mentioned, I have problems deciding what to give up for Lent, so I add something and that something is extra time spent in the Word.

I also found two books by Corrie Ten Boom and several by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. These may deepen your understanding of the videos that you are sharing on Thursday nights.

All of the books are in the Library Basket in the Narthex. Please feel free to borrow them for the Lenten Season. The Library is open at 9 on Sunday morning and the office will open it any time during office hours.

Leslie Lonergan

## Wedding Open House at St. Frances

Ginny Morgan

As anyone who visits our property can tell, we have a perfect place for a wedding. The sanctuary is full of light, the gardens are meandering, and the fountain is trickling. The patio is ideal for a reception, especially after dark, when all the twinkle lights come on. We have updated the website to include pictures and information about our wedding services.

With these ideas in mind, I have been trying to publicize what we can offer potential brides and grooms. So in February, we hosted an open house to showcase our building and grounds as a wedding venue. I talked with caterers, wedding planners, Salon owners, and other professionals who work in the wedding industry.

In the near future, our grounds will be the site of the brand-new LZ Bridal photoshoot. We have a wedding scheduled in the rose garden. We have put our property information on websites like Santa Barbara Venues.

If you know of people getting married, please tell them that this is a place worth looking at.



## Playground Stuff Needed, or “How St. Francis can be as cool as Hogwarts.”



One of the great things St. Francis offers the community is a space to gather for events. And some of those who need space are local home schooling families. This year, we have been privileged to host Shakespeare classes for all ages, parties for homeschool teens, and a morning biology class. Starting next year, we will add a Classical Conversations community to our calendar, and 100 children will meet one day each week for seminars. Kids studying Latin in our hallowed halls sounds magical, doesn't it?

As we have begun to host so many children, and because we want to be a place welcoming to kids in general, we are looking to add some **playground equipment** and **picnic tables** to our property. If you have anything along these lines that you are no longer using, please contact Ginny Morgan at the church. We will put your things to good use.



**Hemshin People**

(The following is a fictional story to illustrate the lifestyles and beliefs of this people group).

Lush green tea bushes carpeted the entire mountain relieved only by a few houses. The clear, blue sky made it a fine day for picking tea leaves, so many from the houses has set out earlier on the day. Only the very elderly and the very young stayed behind.

Nare, and elderly Hemshin woman, clad in a long black dress and a black and green headscarf, sat on a rocking chair outside her modest home. She smiled as she glanced over at her beehive in the far side of fenced enclosure in front of her home. She hung the basket hive on a branch of the large tree. In a few short weeks, she will be able to harvest fresh honey. She will bottle some for her family and the rest she will sell at the local market. Beekeeping is among the traditional occupations of the Hemshin. Other occupations include cultivating tea and maize and raising livestock.

According to Joshua Project, the Hemshin are ethnic Armenians whose ancestors converted to Islam in the 1890s through the 1920s to save themselves from death. They presently are made up of a number of diverse groups of Sunni Muslims and Christian people who originally settled in the Hemsim District in the province of Rize, Turkey.

Pray that God would fulfill the needs of this people group and they would come to experience the love of the Christ.

Esther Dharmaraj



## March 2016 at St. Francis

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 1-5 pm Office Hrs.	<b>2</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service	<b>3</b> 1-5 pm Office Hrs. 6 pm Soup Supper 6:45 pm Screening 7:30 pm Reflection 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> Office Closed 6:30 pm ECW Mtg	<b>5</b>
<b>6 Lent 4</b> 10 am Sunday School/Jr. & Hi. School & College Class 10:15 am Eucharist with Music	<b>7</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study in the Clare Room	<b>8</b> 1-5 pm Office Hrs.  6:30 pm Men's Group Meeting	<b>9</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 12:30 pm Sam Center Brd Mtg	<b>10</b> 1-5 pm Office Hrs. 6 pm Soup Supper 6:45 pm Screening 7:30 pm Reflection 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm EFM	<b>11</b> Office Closed  <b>DOK Women's Retreat</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13 Lent 5</b> <b>Day Light Savings - Spring Ahead!</b>  10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Eucharist with Music <b>DOK Women's Retreat</b>	<b>14</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs. <b>Franciscan Articles Due</b> Noon Brown Bag Bible Study in the Clare Room	<b>15</b> 1-5 pm Office Hrs.	<b>16</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service	<b>17</b> 1-5 pm Office Hrs. 6 pm Soup Supper 6:45 pm Screening 7:30 pm Reflection 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> Office Closed	<b>19</b>  <b>6-9 pm ECW Potato Dinner</b>
<b>20 Palm Sunday</b> 10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Eucharist with Music <b>Palm Sunday BBQ Lunch</b> Belize Collection Noon BC Mtg	<b>21</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study in the Clare Room	<b>22</b> 1-5 pm Office Hrs.	<b>23</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service	<b>24</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 1-5 pm Office Hrs.  <b>7 pm Maundy Thursday Service</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Good Friday</b> Office Closed <b>2 pm Stations of the Cross</b> <b>7 pm Good Friday Service</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>  <b>Alleluia!</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>10:15 Eucharist with Music</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>29</b> 1-5 pm Office Hrs.	<b>30</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs <b>No Healing Service</b>	<b>31</b> 1-5 pm Office Hrs.		



## NEW OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED THROUGH ST. FRANCIS



Want to be involved with the Samaritan Center?? Renee McGuire is heading up a Tutoring Program offered to all who need help in computer skills, literacy, and empowering clients to get on their feet. As well, 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 Renee or Joe about the various opportunities that are available as we partner our mission and ministry with the Samaritan Center.

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**
- **Peanut Butter**
- **Jelly (grape, strawberry, any kind for sandwiches)**
- **Lunch Bags**

**Update of Needs for the Samaritan Center.** . .trash bags tall kitchen size and 33 gallon, napkins, aluminum foil, Styrofoam coup bowls, ammonia, bleach and tube socks for men and toilet paper. Eggs, Rain Ponchos, Milk (ongoing need for awhile), Beanies & warm gloves for both men and women, Sweatshirts, Sweatpants & Sweaters

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 2016

	6	13	20 Palm Sunday	27 Easter	
<b>10am</b>	DOK	Rasmussen Family	Men’s Group	Easter Breakfast Potluck	

**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.**

# March 2016 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	March 6	March 13 Day Light Savings	March 20 Palm Sunday	March 27 Easter	April 3
<b>10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist</b>					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Val S.	Ryan M.	Shantel K.	Tom B.	Grace
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Dan J.	Grace R.	Kathy B.	Jan J.	Susan S.
LEM (Chalice)	Jan J. David S.	Tom & Kathy B.	Rob & Kristen W.	Esther & Brainerd D.	Jan J. David S.
Acolyte & Crucifer	Sophie Audrey	Emma Rachel	Brenda Grace	Brian Wesley	Sophie Audrey
Usher / Greeters	Joe Z.	Tony F. Rebecca S.	Tony F.	Rebecca S. Tony F.	Joe Z.
Altar Guild	Kathy B	Cora R.	Megan A.	Kathy B.	Cora R.
Home Communion	Jan J.	Tom & Kathy B.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Jan J.	Tom & Kathy B.
Vestry Counters	Amy B. Joe Z.	Scott E. Lee H.	Tom B. Cathy G.	Vicky B. Susan S.	

**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 2016 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24	May 1
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## 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Grace	Esther D.	Val S.	Ryan M.	Shantel K.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Susan S.	Dan J.	Grace R.	Kathy B.	Jan J.
LEM (Chalice)	Jan J. David S.	Tom & Kathy B.	Rob & Kristen W.	Esther & Brainerd D.	Jan J. David S.
Acolyte & Crucifer	Sophie Audrey	Emma Rachel	Brenda Grace	Brian Wesley	Sophie Audrey
Usher / Greeters	Joe Z.	Tony F. Rebecca S.	Tony F.	Rebecca S. Tony F.	Joe Z.
Altar Guild	Cora R.	Megan A.	Kathy B.	Cora R.	Megan A.
Home Communion	Tom & Kathy B.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Jan J.	Tom & Kathy B.	Brainerd & Esther D.
Vestry Counters					

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# *the* Franciscan

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church  
280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065

## Newsletter – March 2016

- **Wednesdays**  
**10 am Healing Service**



**Sunday Service:**  
Eucharist with Music 10:15 am

### **St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church**

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