

# The Franciscan



## The Bishop's Committee

## From our Vicar... March 2018



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March seems like a very full month as we realize Easter early this year. At the school where I teach we will be celebrating the school's namesake, St. Patrick, with green regalia and festivities. Suddenly the festal spirit breaks into the Lenten reflective time, and we are alive with remembrances of spreading the Gospel in the Isles. Here at St. Francis, we are a little quieter as we walk the journey with Jesus to the Cross, offering thoughtful inspiration through our Film and Soul Suppers on Wednesday nights. But it may all too quickly fly by, as we prepare for Holy Week at the end of the month. Holy Week will catch us up all too soon as we march around the church, heralding Jesus the King with our Hosanna's ringing out. Then the hearing of the passion narrative once again, stopping us in our triumphal entry, and bringing us to the reality of our Lord's Passion of salvation on the cross. As the week unfolds, we will bless and honor our African brothers and sisters, as they come and share in music and song for us. Maundy Thursday will find us at the Last Supper with a Lamb Dinner and service which will lead us to take the final steps of the journey to the cross and walk the Stations Good Friday. Friday night we will sit quietly at the cross in a Tenebrae Service, as we hear the last words of Christ. Saturday we will continue to walk as we consider our own places of Christ's life within us, through the Labyrinth and the circuitous route of our faith life. Finally, we are released and brought forth anew in the Risen Life of Christ and the freedom of forgiveness given to all as we celebrate Easter Sunday. I hope you may find places during this Lenten Season for your own personal encounter with the Holy Spirit and your faith journey. I hope we may offer places that you may enter in the community life here at St. Francis during this month and find rest for your soul. May you find your soul's longing and may God bring you home to God's great Love. That's what this month and the passion of this journey is all about. God's Great Love. Welcome Home.



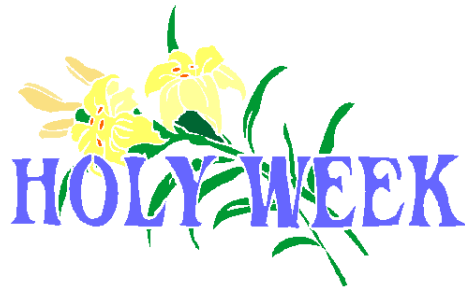
Published monthly by St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church 280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065  
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Palm Sunday, March 25

Youth will again host a BBQ following the Palm Sunday Service. Please join us for Tri-tip sandwiches, hot dogs, side dishes and desserts.



Wednesday, 6-7 pm The African Children's Choir

Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm Service with Lamb Dinner

Good Friday, 2:30 pm Stations of the Cross  
7 pm Tenebrae Service, A service of meditation on the seven last words of Christ.

Holy Saturday, 10 am- 12 pm Labyrinth Walk

Easter Sunday, April 1, Easter Celebration with Food and Refreshments, Egg Hunt, and Face Painting



## 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.

## SOUL SUPPERS FILM SERIES

Please join us as we explore our shared life of faith through a series of thoughtful, inspiring and challenging films on Wednesday evenings during Lent.

A light supper of soup, sandwiches and salad will be provided (or you can BYO). Just come and share in fellowship and reflection.

We will gather at 6pm for supper in the sanctuary. Films will begin promptly at 6.30 and will be followed by an informal discussion time. The evening will wrap up at 8.45.

Invite your friends!

### MARCH 7: SISTER ACT.

Half way through Lent we lighten the atmosphere. Whoopi Goldberg provides a whole new take on "the singing nun" as a lounge singer under police protective custody who is placed in a conservative convent. One of the most successful musical films ever made provides the joyous opportunity to reflect on the life of faith in the world as we find it.



MARCH 14: THE SHACK. Based on the best-selling book, starring Octavia Spencer. Following a family tragedy, a man spirals into a deep depression—causing him to question his most fundamental beliefs. A mysterious letter leads him on a spiritual journey of healing, hope and transformation.



MARCH 21: TBD

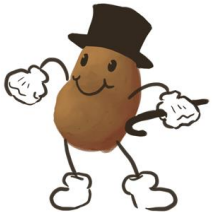


Join us for our annual Palm Sunday Youth Barbecue. Following the Palm Sunday service on March 25th, the youth will serve tri-tip sandwich meals for \$8 and hot dog meals for \$4, which include salad, chips and drink. We hope everyone will join us in celebration and fellowship.

## Members and News

### ECW

### Episcopal Church Women



Everyone is invited to join the ECW for a Potato Bake Dinner on March 3 at 6 pm. The price is only \$10 per person.

The ECW meets on the 1st Friday of every month in the church at 6:30. We would love to have you join us for a time of fellowship and service. Please contact Sylvia Moya, 522-2897.



#### 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.



### DOK

#### Daughter of the King

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.



**There are three new books in the library.**

*The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See If you enjoy reading about Chinese culture in the small villages high in the mountains, this is the book for you. See writes about family, mothers and daughters and the cultivation of tea. As a tea drinker, I was fascinated about the intricacies of tea production. I was also moved by the relationships of the family and especially the complex relationship between mothers and daughters.

*The Storyteller* by Jodi Picoult. Picoult book is composed of multiple stories. I struggled, along with the characters, about the right to tell the secrets of others and forgiveness. The story moves from present day to the horrors of WWII.

*All Fall Down* by Jennifer Weiner. Weiner follows a family with a difficult child and a mother's decent into addiction with prescription medications. "With a sparkling comedic touch, true-to-life characterizations, Weiner turns one woman's slide into addiction and her struggle to find her way back up again into an unforgettable tale of empowerment and redemption."

## WHAT IS A DRUM CIRCLE



A drum circle is a spiritual, communal, or therapeutic music experience in which participants join together in a circle to make rhythm, move, and dance, using various percussion instruments, voices, and whatever "found sounds" are around! Drum circles are often used to reduce stress, anxiety and blood pressure, to increase immune system function, and to create a sense of community.

Rhythm is a truly universal language, so therefore naturally creates a sense of community that can bridge gaps and potential biases.

Participants in a community drum circle act as both audience and artist, and the musical experience shared results in harmony, unity, and a feeling of wellness.

The success of a drum circle is not dependent on the group's musical ability. This is no different in children's drum circles!

Please contact Reverend Sarah if this sounds exciting to you and watch for details and upcoming Drum Circle Dates.

Missing someone? ... Call

Want to meet up? ... Invite

Want to be understood? ... Explain

Have questions? ... Ask

Don't like something? ... Say it

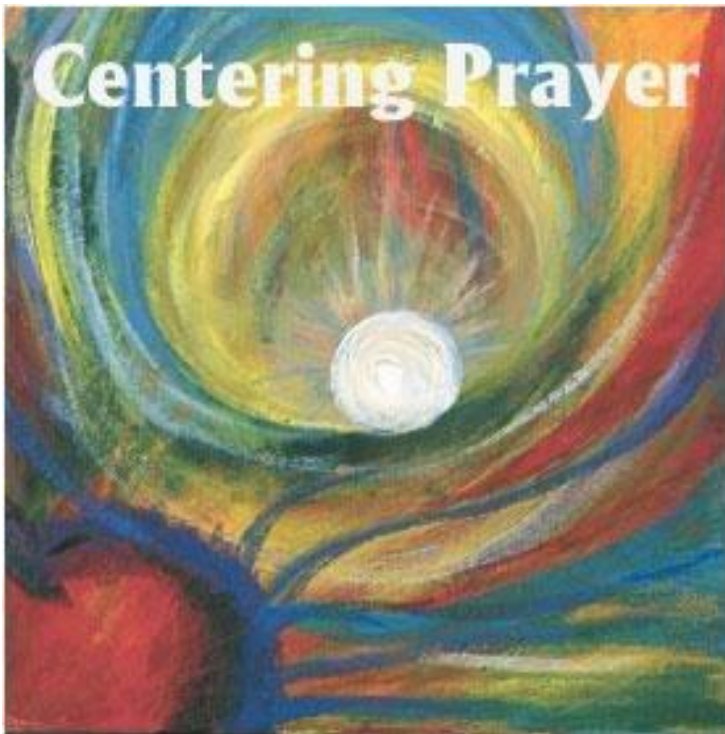
Like something? ... State it

Want something? ... Ask for it

Love someone? ... Express it

We have one life to live. Keep it simple.

LIVING  
COMPASS



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 and the fourth Tuesday each month at the church in the Library at 7 pm.



## 2018 Women's Retreat

The 2018 annual women's' retreat will be held at St. Francis on Saturday April 21 please ask me or Kathy Butler. Due to the floods at Montecito, La Casa de Maria had extensive damage. We have decided to have our retreat on one day at our beautiful church. 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.

Mark your calendars for the weekend of April 21. There will be a signup sheet or you can contact Pat Udell at [\(805\)358-4438](tel:(805)358-4438) or by email at: [patriciaudell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patriciaudell@sbcglobal.net)

Faith is the cushion  
that protects our fragile souls  
on life's bumpy road.

Diantha Ain

## Parish Prayer Needs:

**Music Program:** Thanksgiving for all the singers!!

**Healing:** Michael, Megan, Jean, Braydon, Hank, Fr. Steve, Al, Mary, Rich, Yvonne, VanNessa, Dee, Jeff, Jim, Bill & Leslie L., Jan, David, Lee, Trish, Sue, Tony, Mark, Michele, Eric, Louise, Bob & family, Edith, Rana, Howard, Mary, Donna, J.D. Frances B., Patrick, Margaret, Beverly.

**For Comfort:** The Heckler family. Deb Wollum, George and the Schneider family. The Nilles family. Conti Family. Janet, Patricia and family. Barbara Haryn. Donna Shiver. Julie Christian.

## BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY



St. Francis will be putting together a Business Directory of businesses that are recommended or owned by the members of St. Francis. We all are always looking for good reliable businesses to call such as a handyman, plumber, electrician, etc.

If you have a business or know of a good reputable business please bring the business card to church. We would love to work on this during the summer.

Thank you for considering how you can help with this project.



### NEW OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED THROUGH ST. FRANCIS

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. Jelly for sandwiches

- **Backpacks**, Blankets & Sleeping Bags for the Clients. 39 gal and 40-45 black trash bags, Gallon ziploc bags, Napkins, Aluminum foil, Soup bowls, **10 oz coffee cups**
- Gloves, Socks, New underwear,
- **Thermal wear, Rain proof jackets**
- Batteries, AA, AAA, C, D
- Cleaning Products, **Windex, 409 Pinesol**

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.

### You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support your charitable organization by shopping at **smile.amazon.com**

*#StartWithaSmile*  
at [smile.amazon.com/ch/95-2558848](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-2558848) and  
Amazon donates to St. Francis of Assisi  
Episcopal Church.



# MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				19am-2pm Office Hrs.  7pm RCA Clare Rm	2 Office Closed  6:30 pm ECW Mtg  8 pm AA PH	3 <b>6 pm ECW Potato Bake Dinner</b>
<b>4 Lent 3</b> David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Cursillo Celebration 6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>5</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study  8 pm Men's AA PH	<b>6</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs.  7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	<b>7</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service <b>6 pm Soup Supper</b> <b>6:30 pm Sister Act</b> 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	<b>8</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs.  7pm RCA Clare Rm	<b>9</b> Office Closed  8 pm AA PH	<b>10</b>
<b>11 Lent 4</b> Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music  6:30 Men's AA PH 7 pm Grief Counseling	<b>12</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study  8 pm Men's AA PH	<b>13</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs.  7 pm Centering Prayer at Dharmarjs  7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	<b>14</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service <b>6 pm Soup Supper</b> <b>6:30 pm The Shack</b>  7:30 pm Men's AA PH	<b>15</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs.  7pm RCA Clare Rm	<b>16</b> Office Closed  <b>Franciscan Articles Due</b> 8 pm AA PH	<b>17</b> Quinceanera
<b>18 Lent 5</b> Brainerd Dharmaraj, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music, Belize Collection Noon BC Mtg. Koinonia John the Baptist PH 6:30 Men's AA PH 7 pm Grief Counseling	<b>19</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study  8 pm Men's AA PH	<b>20</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs.  7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	<b>21</b> 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing Service & Eucharist Service <b>6 pm Soup Supper</b> <b>6:30 pm TBA</b> 6:15 pm FPU Clare Rm. 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	<b>22</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs.  7pm RCA Clare Rm	<b>23</b> Office Closed  8 pm AA PH	<b>24</b> Koinonia John the Baptist PH
<b>25 Palm Sunday</b> David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music, Recycle Sunday 6:30 Men's AA PH 7 pm Grief Counseling	<b>26</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study  8 pm Men's AA PH	<b>27</b> 9am-2pm Office Hr 7 pm Centering Prayer in the Library  7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	<b>28</b> 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing Service & Eucharist Service <b>6 pm African Choir</b> 6:15 pm FPU Clare Rm. 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	<b>29 Church Office Closed</b> <b>Maundy Thursday 7 pm Lamb Dinner &amp; Service</b> 7pm RCA Clare Rm	<b>30</b> Office Closed <b>Good Friday</b> <b>2:30 pm Stations of the Cross</b> <b>7 pm Tenebrae Service</b> 8 pm AA PH	<b>31</b> <b>10 am – Noon Labyrinth Walk</b>
<b>April 1</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b>						

# March 2018 Schedule for Holy Ministry


	March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25 Palm Sun.	April 1 Easter
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## 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Esther D.	Joy C.	Tom B.	Susan S.	Dan J.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Grace R.	Eden S.	Kathy B.	Grace R.	Jan J.
LEM (Chalice)	Rob & Kristin W.	Esther & Brainerd D.	Tom & Kathy B.	Jan J. Eden S.	Bernadette David S.
Acolyte & Crucifer	Grace	Brenda Wesley	Grace Esther	Grace	Esther Grace
Usher / Greeters	David S. Jr. Tony F.	Rebecca S. Tony F.	David S. Jr. Tony F.	Jacob M. Joe Z.	Tony F. Rebecca S.
Altar Guild	Megan A.	Eden S.	Kathy B.	Joy C.	Teri M.
Home Communion	Brainerd & Esther D.	Eden S.	Tom & Kathy B.	Jan J.	Brainerd & Esther D.
Vestry Counters	Amy R. Bernadette	Susan S. Janet J.	Amy B. Kathy B.	Cathy G. Jan J.	

**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.

	March	4	11	18	25 Palm Sunday	April 1 Easter
10am	DOK	Paula K.		B.B.Q. - Tom & Kathy B.		

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.

# April 2018 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	April 1 Easter	April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
<b>10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist</b>					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Dan J.	Esther D.	Joy C.	Tom B.	Susan S.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Jan J.	Grace R.	Esther D.	Kathy B.	Eden S.
LEM (Chalice)	Bernadette David S.	Rob & Kristin W.	Esther & Brainerd D.	Tom & Kathy B.	Jan J. Eden S.
Acolyte & Crucifer	Grace	Esther	Brenda Wesley	Grace Esther	Grace
Usher / Greeters	Tony F. Rebecca S.	David S. Jr. Tony F.	Rebecca S. Tony F.	David S. Jr. Tony F.	Jacob M. Joe Z.
Altar Guild	Teri M.	Megan A.	Eden S.	Kathy B.	Joy C.
Home Communion	Brainerd & Esther D.	Eden S.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Tom & Kathy B.	Jan J. Eden S.
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 – March 2018

**TO:**

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#### **Sunday Service:**

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

#### **Wednesdays**

- **10 am Healing Service**