

# The Franciscan



## The Bishop's Committee

## From our Vicar...MARCH 2021



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*Trust says the crumpled green license plate that hangs in my office. Trust what? Trust that it is worth scratching on the wall that God Is Love and Life because, all appearances to the contrary notwithstanding, it may just be true. Trust that if God is anywhere, God is here, which means that there is no telling where God may turn up next – around what sudden bend of the path if you happen to have your eyes and ears open, your wits about you, in what odd, small moments almost too foolish to tell. If God is ever, God is now, in the in and out of breathing, the sound of the footsteps on the stair, the smell of the rain, the touch of a hand on your bare shoulder where you kneel at the door. If God lives and loves, as the hay shed proclaimed, it is in ourselves no less than everywhere else, in the godless no less than the godliest, in the dead no less than the living, because the end of a life is no more likely to be the end of God's love that keeps it alive than it is of our love that keeps it a living part of ourselves the way Naya remains as much a part of me as she was before that night in her ninety-fourth year when the Toonerville Trolley of the world slowed down enough for her to dismount at last.*

*Frederick Beuchner, The Eyes of the Heart pg. 97*

We are walking the way of the cross. In these days we are reflecting on our own steps of following the way of Love, the way of Christ. For each moment of our Lenten Journey, we are invited to offer ourselves out of our comfort, out of our well-worn path of habit and pattern, and into the unknown, with Jesus. Trust is not something that comes easily to some, to others it may be like falling into the arms of safety. Trust beckons us to believe in the impossible, and hardly possible to see something magnificent just beyond reach. We are walking the path of the cross and hardly know what awaits us through the cross, just beyond the horizon, that we cannot see yet, but long to touch. We are invited into the mystery of trust deeper. We are beckoned by the Spirit's love to extend ourselves to know that "if God is ever, God is now, in the in and out of breathing, the sound of footsteps on the stair, the smell of the rain, the touch of a hand on your bare shoulder where you kneel at the door." Trust, which means there is no telling where God will show up next.

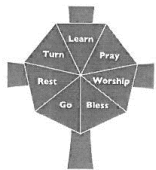


*Sarah*



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# Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent

| Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday   | Sunday                                 |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Reflections from "Living the Way of Love"</b><br>by Mary Bea Sullivan (Church Publishing, 2019).<br>Used with permission. |   | <b>Feb 17</b><br><b>Bless</b> Notice the pattern of your breathing. Pray for awareness of blessings. Gen. 2:7    | <b>18</b><br><b>Worship</b> How does community help or hinder your growing in Christ? John 1:12-13         | <b>19</b><br><b>Rule of Life</b> How can you build pauses into the day to reflect on the work of the Spirit? John 15:5 | <b>20</b><br><b>Rest</b> How might you connect with others in the spirit of renewal? 1 Kings 19:11-12  | <b>21</b><br><b>1st Sunday of Lent</b> |
| <b>22</b><br><b>Worship</b> What is most meaningful to you in worship? BCP, p. 281   | <b>23</b><br><b>Pray</b> Go for a walk today and pray with your feet, each step with intention. Isa. 2:3a | <b>24</b><br><b>Way of Love</b> Where do you see the seven practices of the Way of Love in this story? Luke 5:19 | <b>25</b><br><b>Bless</b> Who has taught you to live a Jesus-filled life? Who have you taught? 2 Cor. 4:16 | <b>26</b><br><b>Go</b> Where can you go and intentionally provide kindness? Matt. 5:4                                  | <b>27</b><br><b>Rest</b> How do you incorporate rest in your life? Jer. 6:16                           | <b>28</b><br><b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b> |
| <b>Mar 1</b><br><b>Learn</b> What passage of scripture is important to you Why? Isa. 40:8                                    | <b>2</b><br><b>Rest</b> How do your creative outlets impact on taking rest? Gen. 1:1-2:4                  | <b>3</b><br><b>Go</b> Where are you being encouraged to "show up"? Matt. 25:44-45                                | <b>4</b><br><b>Pray</b> Take 20 minutes in contemplative prayer today. Matt. 4:18-22                       | <b>5</b><br><b>Bless</b> Intentionally smile at least ten times today. Phil. 4:4                                       | <b>6</b><br><b>Turn</b> Today, intentionally listen devoutly to another. Mark 4:23                     | <b>7</b><br><b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b>  |
| <b>8</b><br><b>Go</b> Where can you seek and serve Christ in someone unlike you? Jer. 30:22, 31:4-5                          | <b>9</b><br><b>Turn</b> How might you share what brings you great joy with others? Rom. 12:6-8            | <b>10</b><br><b>Rest</b> How can you incorporate rest from technology today? Matt. 11:28                         | <b>11</b><br><b>Learn</b> How is the Jesus who walked this earth beckoning you to meet him? Mark 10:46-52  | <b>12</b><br><b>Worship</b> In your prayers today, what new words or thoughts touch you? Phil. 4:6                     | <b>13</b><br><b>Pray</b> Try praying with Anglican prayer beads. Luke 18:1                             | <b>14</b><br><b>4th Sunday of Lent</b> |
| <b>15</b><br><b>Bless</b> What challenges are you facing today? Job 11:18  | <b>16</b><br><b>Turn</b> Where do you find joy and passion? Luke 24:32                                    | <b>17</b><br><b>Rest</b> What can you say "no" to so you can say "yes" to prayer, rest and joy? Lev. 23:3        | <b>18</b><br><b>Learn</b> Practice lectio divina with this scripture. Luke 15:17-24                        | <b>19</b><br><b>Go</b> Create a prayer representing how you seek to serve God and follow Jesus. Matt. 5:15             | <b>20</b><br><b>Rule of Life</b> How do others experience the love of Christ through you? Gal. 5:22-23 | <b>21</b><br><b>5th Sunday of Lent</b> |
| <b>22</b><br><b>Turn</b> What relationships do you need to mend? Isa. 55:8-9   | <b>23</b><br><b>Rule of Life</b> How has this Way with God impacted your experience of God? John 7:38     | <b>24</b><br><b>Learn</b> Slowly read this passage aloud. How does this speak to the world today? Matt. 4:18-22  | <b>25</b><br><b>Worship</b> What seminal moments have informed a need to return to Christ? Ps. 51:10       | <b>26</b><br><b>Go</b> Where might God be asking you to take your great love into the world? Isa. 48: 6b               | <b>27</b><br><b>Pray</b> What are you thankful for? 1 Chron. 29:15                                     | <b>28</b><br><b>Palm Sunday</b>        |
| <b>29</b><br><b>Pray</b> Listen to the daily office today at missionstclair.com Ps. 55:17                                    | <b>30</b><br><b>Rule of Life</b> Who can support you in living a Jesus-centered life? 2 Cor. 3:6          | <b>31</b><br><b>Bless</b> When you reflect on financial giving, are your palms open? Matt. 12:43-44              | <b>Apr 1</b><br><b>Worship</b> How do you want to prepare people to remember you? 2 Cor. 1:3-4             | <b>2</b><br><b>Turn</b> How did you turn back towards God's love when you made a big mistake? Luke 15:18               | <b>3</b><br><b>Learn</b> Who might you have a conversation with to learn about God? Ps. 119:105        | <b>4</b><br><b>Easter Day</b>          |



Palm Sunday will be Outside on the Patio this year March 28. Service will be 10:15.



During Holy Week, **Maundy Thursday Service** will be on the Patio at 7PM

April 1.

We will light the candles and observe the Holy Light through Good Friday.

**Good Friday Stations of the Cross** will be observed on Friday April 2 at 2:30. Then a Tenebrae Service will be offered that night at 7PM on the Patio.

We hope these services will be a meaningful and holy offering for your Lenten Journey. This year Lent comes up so “early.” You know it’s one of those seasons that moves either way, depending on when Christmas is, and six Sundays after. The Presentation of our Lord was February 2, and now we are getting ready for Ash Wednesday and our Lenten Journey. Please join us for Lenten Bible Study on Zoom with David Kitch starting Monday February 22 at 7:30. We will be following the steps of Jesus toward the cross through The Way of Love, written by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. We look forward to being with you through an informal and informative study.



STILLPOINT ONE-DAY RETREAT

# ENNEAGRAM THROUGH THE LENS OF STANCES

The Enneagram is an ancient personality typing system that identifies Nine Personality Types expressed individually and in relationship to others. The Enneagram acts as a unique tool for understanding and explaining human behavior, the underlying motivations that drive behavior, and the gifts we all have for the transformation of non-productive encounters with others.

Whether you're new to the Enneagram or not, this retreat will provide the basic tenets of the Enneagram system and how knowing ones-self can allow us to lead more whole lives, while also going deeper into stance work.

Enneagram wisdom shows our unique imbalance in the three centers of intelligence: thinking, feeling and doing. Learning to balance these three centers frees up enormous amounts of physical, emotional, and spiritual energy.

**MARCH 20, 2021  
9 AM - 2 PM  
ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

STUDENT PRICING & SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

**CLICK HERE**



Joey Schewee has been a student of the Enneagram for more than twenty years. As an Enneagram mentor, she completed an intensive three-year apprenticeship with her mother, Suzanne Stabile, in 2006, and has taught in tandem with the Enneagram master for over a decade.



## STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

- Pastoral Care through the church office (805)526-5141, email [revsarahkitch@gmail.com](mailto:revsarahkitch@gmail.com) or cell 818-442-4514
  - Keep up through the St. Francis Website <https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/>
  - Sunday Worship Live Streamed with link in the St. Francis Weekly
  - BIBLE STUDY 7:30 February 8 and 22 on ZOOM WITH DAVID KITCH. LOOK FOR LINK AND ANNOUNCEMENT IN YOUR EMAIL ON THE FRANCISCAN WEEKLY
  - Remember to keep in touch with each other through the Phone Tree and stay connected.
  - Please remember St. Francis with your donations and pledge by <https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/donate>
- 



### LOVE GIVEN AWAY

As a Chaplain at St Patrick's Episcopal Day School, I am asked to explain various concepts and liturgical seasons of the church. Recently, of course, we had Ash Wednesday. Now Ash Wednesday is not something that every tradition of the Christian Church observes. Usually, it is familiar to the Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church, the Episcopal Church, but many denominations do not set this day apart. So, in explaining it to the students at St Patrick's we are often seeking to help them understand the concept of love given away, such as the cross and Jesus' life for us. We

combine this effort with the idea of "Pay It Forward." Pay It Forward represents us doing something for others and giving ourselves away because of God's Love for us.

At St Francis, I would like to ask if you would consider a Pay It Forward project with me. We are so blessed with our facilities and the community outreach we offer to use the fellowship hall, the sanctuary, not to mention the grounds outside.

St Francis needs to replace our white round tables to better accommodate events and outreach that we offer through the year. We have investigated the brand LIFETIME and learned that we are able to purchase 12 round tables, with a cart to hold them, for \$2400.00.

This is our Pay It Forward project. I would like to invite you this Lent to consider prayerfully a one-time gift towards this project for replacing our tables. Please feel free to call and talk with me about this idea if you have any questions. We bless the work of the Spirit among us and are excited to see what God can do.

In Grace, Sarah

**It is the privilege of St Francis to provide monies now in support of the work of The Bridge. We are deeply blessed to continue to make education for children a priority for our Mission Outreach. As our ministry in Belize comes to a close this year, we are so grateful to resource this work in Colombia. Please read about this work. Offerings will be taken in church each month as we bless and pray for this ministry through our outreach.**

THE BRIDGE is a foundation which provides academic assistance to underprivileged children in Bogotá, Colombia. For those children fortunate enough to attend school, it provides resources to complete homework assignments and remedial help in reading, writing and mathematics skills. For those children who are currently unable to study due to a lack of openings in the public schools or a lack of proper documentation, The Bridge provides a place where children can study (homeschool style) until a vacancy becomes available to them.

Executive Directors for The Bridge are Anita and Lloyd Mix. They have been serving in Latin America for 34 years and have been centered in Bogotá for 28 years. For the last 13 years they have been partnering with Colombians working with high risk children. Sarah and David have known Anita and Lloyd for almost 40 years, and David has twice visited them in Bogotá.

From Anita:

**It is our conviction that if we can help kids move forward with their education they will**

**have more positive opportunities for their future. So our major emphasis will always be academic support. However, our purpose is to bear Christ's light in the darkness. So in and around the educational emphasis we love on the kids, have daily devotions and strive to build positive relationships with, and support for, parents and families. We have a library on campus as well as a large playroom. So a lot of life is lived within our walls when things are 'normal'.**

**The pandemic has been the cause for a lot of pivoting in how we accomplish our ministry, but we were able to shift gears and now provide homework assistance via phone, academic packets at the door and grocery distributions for our families in need. When the restrictions lessen we are able to bring in small groups of siblings in shifts and increase our personal contact.**

**In 2021, we anticipate helping as many as 150 children on a daily basis.**

Here is a link to a video presentation about the work of The Bridge.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iuqfgmHJRc>

My friends,  
So many of us these days are ordering on-line through Amazon. It has become a way of life.

When you do, please order through AMAZON SMILES. Every donation that is given from AMAZON SMILES supports St Francis. Your ordering brings gifts to the church and you don't have to do anything other than your own order! How easy is that! Next time you go on-line and order through AMAZON look for AMAZON SMILES, and direct it to St Francis. St Francis thanks you!!!

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 ongoing. Please talk with Gerri Harrington if you have questions. The Baby Closet is collecting DIAPERS SIZE 4,5,6. diapers; baby cream; baby wipes. Stock up each week so you can help fill the closet with Diapers, Wipes and Baby Cream!



## **Parish Prayer Needs:**

**Healing:** 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.

Shrewd chameleons survive  
in a changing world by  
changing with it.

Diantha Ain



## **NEW OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED THROUGH ST. FRANCIS**

Our church members have asked what useful items **The Samaritan Center** can use the most. 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.

Here is a link for much needed items for the Samaritan Center:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/BXFBPE9HRPQR?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/BXFBPE9HRPQR?ref=wl_share)

All shelf-stable goods are helpful, as well as cleaning products and trash bags.

### **PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN WITH...**

- Men's Jeans, shorts waist 30-34
- Men's & Women's work boots
- Men's belts
- Men's t-shirts size M or L
- Unopened/new Men's underwear & socks
- Disposable gloves size L or XL
- Face masks – Disposable
- Clorox wipes & bleach
- Unopened plastic utensils (forks & knives)
- Water bottles (16.9 fl oz)
- Disposable coffee cups (12 oz)
- \$10 Gas Card
- Canned meals (like stew, soups, ravioli, spaghetti's)
- Paper Towels
- Grape Jelly For Sandwiches
- Peanut Butter (Creamy) for Sandwiches
- Plastic Forks and Spoons
- Toilet Paper (Septic Safe)
- Gallon And Sandwich Size Ziploc Bags
- Soup Bowls
- 10 oz Coffee Cups

More Information:

<http://www.thesamaritancenterofsimivalley.org>

## Caring for Each Other

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>Do not forget to keep in touch through the Phone Tree!</b> |                                    |
| Sylvia Moya   | Megan Anderson                     |
| Megan Anderson  | Beverly Chojnacki                  |
| Amy Brown   | Jan Jones                          |
| Margie Roblin   | Leslie Lonergan                    |
| Leslie Lonergan   | Pat Udell                          |
| Pat Udell   | Carol Fox                          |
| Cathy Grimes  | Nancy Corradini                    |
| Terri Meadows   | Donna Hull                         |
| Bernadette Schnaible  | Millie Reina                       |
| Eden Suguitan   | Rebecca Sang, Aida Reyes           |
| Liz Kavetsky  | Yvonne Robello                     |
| Sam Anuseim   | Marilyn Taylor                     |
| Steve Bayles  | Ruthie Haskins                     |
| Nancy Corradini   | Fr. Steve & Dorrie Dean            |
| Ruthie Haskins  | Richard & Cynthia Chadwick         |
| Marilyn Taylor  | Steve Bayles                       |
| Chrissy Bowden  | Gerri Harrington                   |
| Paula & Brad Keatts   | Peter & Shelby Harksell            |
| Dan & Chris McCarty   | Jennifer Jones<br>McIntyre & Clint |
| Jennifer Jones McIntyre                                       | Ginny Morgan                       |
| Ginny Morgan  | Lisa & Richard Nilles              |
| Ken Simmonds  | Roger Paul                         |
| Bethany Tucker  | Deb Wollum                         |
| Rob & Kristin Wahlstrom                                       | Jeff & Dale Heckler                |
| Susan Swish   | Eric & Carroll Strome              |



### Silence

God wants to come to us. God wants us to open ourselves to God as God has opened Godself to us. God wants our hope, our listening, our receptivity. God wants our silence. That is easy to say. It is hard to do. In noisy, frenetic lives, silence is an uncomfortable task. It is a dangerous rebellion against a culture whose armies encroach on all sides, war drums beating ever more loudly.

-Br. Lucas Hall

[Society of Saint John the Evangelist](#)

**The American Red Cross is so grateful to all our partners that continue to stand with us through the evolution of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).**

Hundreds of thousands of donors and blood drive hosts have responded to the call to support the lifesaving mission and we can't thank you enough!

Your commitment to host a blood drive with the American Red Cross truly made a difference! Your team registered 33 total donors, collected 34 pints of blood and recruited 7 first-time donors. Your efforts have helped boost the community blood supply and ensure hospital patients have the lifesaving blood they need.

Yahooo!! We had SEVEN first timers :)

# MARCH

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday                      | Saturday  |
|---|--|---|---|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|
|   | <b>1</b><br><br>7:30 pm Online Bible Study with David Kitch<br><br>8 pm Men's AA PH  | <b>2</b><br><br>6:30 pm Women PH<br>7 pm AA Clare Rm<br>8 pm Women's AA PH  | <b>3</b><br>9am-2 pm Office Hrs.<br>10 am Healing & Eucharist Service<br><br>7:30 pm Men's AA PH                | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b><br><br>8 pm AA PH  | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>7 Lent 3</b><br>Rev. Sarah Kitch Preaching<br>10:15 am Eucharist with Music<br><br>6:30 Men's AA PH                                  | <b>8</b><br><br>7:30 pm Online Bible Study with David Kitch<br><br>8 pm Men's AA PH  | <b>9</b><br><br>6:30 pm Women PH<br>7 pm AA Clare Rm<br>8 pm Women's AA PH  | <b>10</b><br>9am-2 pm Office Hrs.<br>10 am Healing & Eucharist Service<br><br>7:30 pm Men's AA PH               | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b><br><br>8 pm AA PH | <b>13</b> |
| <b>14 Lent 4</b><br>David Kitch, Preaching<br>10:15 am Eucharist with Music<br><br>6:30 Men's AA PH                                     | <b>15</b><br><br>7:30 pm Online Bible Study with David Kitch<br><br>8 pm Men's AA PH | <b>16</b><br><br>6:30 pm Women PH<br>7 pm AA Clare Rm<br>8 pm Women's AA PH | <b>17</b><br>9am-2 pm Office Hrs. Services 10 am, 12 pm & 6 pm<br><br>6 pm Woodranch HOA<br>7:30 pm Men's AA PH | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b><br><br>8 pm AA PH | <b>20</b> |
| <b>21 Lent 5</b><br>Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching<br>10:15 am Eucharist with Music<br><br>6:30 Men's AA PH                                | <b>22</b><br><br>7:30 pm Bible Study With David Kitch<br><br>8 pm Men's AA PH        | <b>23</b><br><br>6:30 pm Women PH<br>7 pm AA Clare Rm<br>8 pm Women's AA PH | <b>24</b><br>9am-2 pm Office Hrs.<br>10 am Healing & Eucharist Service<br><br>7:30 pm Men's AA PH               | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b><br><br>8 pm AA PH | <b>27</b> |
| <b>28 Lent 6</b><br>David Kitch Preaching<br>10:15 am Eucharist with Music<br>Noon BC Meeting<br><br>Recycle Sunday<br>6:30 Men's AA PH | <b>29</b><br><br>7:30 pm Bible Study With David Kitch<br><br>8 pm Men's AA PH        | <b>30</b><br><br>6:30 pm Women PH<br>7 pm AA Clare Rm<br>8 pm Women's AA PH | <b>31</b><br>9am-2 pm Office Hrs.<br>10 am Healing & Eucharist Service<br><br>7:30 pm Men's AA PH               |           |                             |           |



# March 2021 Schedule for Holy Ministry

|  | March 7 | March 14 | March 21 | March 28 | April 4 |
|--|---------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
|--|---------|----------|----------|----------|---------|

## 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

|                           |            |            |                     |            |            |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|------------|------------|
| Lector<br>(O.T./Psalm)    | Chrissy B. | Susan S.   | Bernadette          | Ken S.     | Chrissy B. |
| Lector<br>(Epistle/P.O.P) | Eden S.    | Chrissy B. | Rueben A.           | Ruth H.    | Eden S.    |
| LEM<br>(Chalice)          | Chrissy B. | David K.   | Rob &<br>Kristin W. | Bernadette | Chrissy B. |
| Acolyte &<br>Crucifer     |            |            |                     |            |            |
| Usher /<br>Greeters       |            | Rebecca S. | Joe Z.              | Rebecca    |            |
| Altar Guild               | Cathy G.   | Chrissy B. | Chris M.            | Ruth H.    | Cathy G.   |
| Home<br>Communion         |            |            |                     |            |            |
| Vestry<br>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!

Please call Jennifer @805.990.4102 to sign up for Coffee Hour.

|       |         |                               |    |    |  |
|-------|---------|-------------------------------|----|----|--|
| March | 7       | 14                            | 21 | 28 |  |
| 10am  | DOK/ECW | Samaritan Ctr.<br>Baby Closet |    |    |  |

# April 2021 Schedule for Holy Ministry

|  | April 4    | April 11   | April 18            | April 25   | May 2      |
|--|------------|------------|---------------------|------------|------------|
| <b>10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist</b>   |            |            |                     |            |            |
| Lector<br>(O.T./Psalm)   | Chrissy B. | Susan S.   | Bernadette          | Ken S.     | Chrissy B. |
| Lector<br>(Epistle/P.O.P)  | Eden S.    | Chrissy B. | Rueben A.           | Chrissy B. | Eden S.    |
| LEM<br>(Chalice)   | Chrissy B. | David K.   | Rob &<br>Kristin W. | Bernadette | Chrissy B. |
| Acolyte &<br>Crucifer  |            |            |                     |            |            |
| Usher /<br>Greeters  |            | Rebecca S. | Joe Z.              | Rebecca    |            |
| Altar Guild  | Cathy G.   | Chrissy B. | Chris M.            | Ruth H.    | Cathy G.   |
| Home<br>Communion  |            |            |                     |            |            |
| Vestry<br>Counters   |            |            |                     |            |            |
| <b><u>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!</u></b> |            |            |                     |            |            |



## 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!

## **What is the church?**

Paul opens his letter to the Ephesians with the magnificent blessing that places us in true position

to our Creator God. We are “blessed with every spiritual blessing,” and then Paul recounts to us what every spiritual blessing is with seven verbs.

Blessed...chose...destined...bestowed..lavished...made known...gather up.

**Blessed:** We know the blessedness of God and then the blessing which is given to us because of God. We receive from God blessings of who God is! That changes our definition of blessing than what we might consider. We are blessed because we receive God’s blessing of who God is.

**Chose:** With that blessing God chose us before the foundation of the world. You and I are chosen. We are in on the action of creation and we are part of the destiny of that creation.

**Destined:** There it is, destined, adopted as children through Christ. We are part of the good pleasure of God’s will to be an active part of the Kin-dom Plan, from the very inception of Creation. “When God destines us, God marks out the boundaries in which we live the purposed life to which God appoints us.”

**Bestowed:** Grace has been freely bestowed on us, that we walk in throughout our life, in the ordinary, everyday. Bestow is a noun that Grace is verbalized. Grace, one of the biggest blessings and gifts given to us to say you and I are GRACED!!!

**Lavished:** Ever found yourself just lavishing in a cool swimming pool, the ocean, a lake, where you have nothing better to do than just float and be surrounded by the water on a beautiful day? So that’s the kind of grace that is lavished on us, and surrounds us, encompasses us, and we are recipients of God extravagance, God’s Grace.

**Made known:** None of this is a secret. God has made known to us the mystery of God’s will. That is God’s desire to every one of us, that we are not in the dark. That we are living out God’s wisdom and insight, in the knowledge of who God is, in the vitality and richness of God’s Love.

**Gather up:** We are insiders in this Cosmic Story of Redemption. All these blessings are gathered up in Christ, and we are the living witnesses of this Resurrection Story. Read Ephesians 1: 3-14 with your name in it. You are living out the story of Resurrection.

# *the* Franciscan

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

## Newsletter – March 2021

TO:

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### Sunday Service:

10:15 am

### Wednesdays

- 10 am Healing Service