

The Franciscan



The Bishop's Committee

From our Vicar... May 2018



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We are a Resurrection People and Alleluia is our Song! But God did not leave us without an Advocate on our behalf, and there is MORE!!!! “Suddenly there was a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were meeting!” THE HOLY SPIRIT HAD COME!! Pentecost is the celebration of the Holy Spirit’s presence with us, empowering us to be the people of God. We are filled with the “fizzing” of the Spirit moving through us, to be light and salt wherever we are. This is truly our mission in the world, and what captivates people to know God’s love for them. Pentecost, Pente meaning 50, is 50 days after Easter, and the time when we enter into the enlivening presence of God. The presence of God is given to us through the Trinity, three persons in one, God the Father (Creator), Jesus the Son (Redeemer), and Holy Spirit (Sustainer). The Holy Spirit is the Sustainer of God’s joy in us. We are revived and renewed because of the Holy Spirit within us. Alleluia!

At our Baptism we are bestowed with the Holy Spirit, and ever after that the Holy Spirit is within us. We are embraced, enlivened, filled, and blessed within with the power of the Holy Spirit. Yet how many of us know this part of the Trinity? What is our experience with the Holy Spirit?

Perhaps even, what are the myths and “hearsay” we think about the Holy Spirit? Let’s bring our quest to this month’s gathering and find a renewed understanding and blessing from the Holy Spirit as we enter into Pentecost.



*Make ready for the Christ, Whose smile, like lightning,
Sets free the song of everlasting glory
That now sleeps, in your paper flesh, like dynamite.*
—Thomas Merton [1]

When God gives of Godself, one of two things happens: either flesh is inspired or spirit is enfleshed. It is really very clear. I am somewhat amazed that more have not recognized this simple pattern: God's will is incarnation. And against all our expectations of divinity, it appears that for God, *matter really matters*.

This Creator of ours is patiently determined to put matter and spirit together, almost as if the one were not complete without the other. This Lord of life seems to desire a perfect but free unification between body and soul. So much so, in fact, that God appears to be willing to wait for the creatures to will and choose this unity themselves—or it remains unrealized. But if God did it any other way, the medium would not be the message: God never enforces or dominates, but only allures and seduces.

God apparently loves freedom as much as incarnation. This is the rub of time and history and our interminable groanings (see Romans 8:18-25). Jesus trusted God's slow process of incarnation instead of demanding an immediate conclusion. The result was resurrection and the realization of eternal union between body and spirit, human and divine.

The reason we have trouble with the full incarnation in Jesus is probably because we have not been able to recognize and enjoy the incarnations everywhere and all the time. As poet Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote:
For Christ plays in ten thousand places
Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his
his
To the Father through the features of men's faces. [2]

Not even by ourselves will we honor the divine image. In the oft-quoted words of Marianne Williamson:

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. . . . You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.



PENTECOST SERVICE MAY 20

What is Pentecost? In the early church, the disciples experienced a phenomenon of the power of the Holy Spirit fifty days after the Resurrection and Ascension. Jesus had promised to the followers that they would be given the Holy Spirit when he left them. Now they were fully immersed in the experience. (See Acts 2).

At St. Francis it is our tradition to celebrate this experience outside with a service. Come ready to enter into the joy of the Spirit's presence with us, as we open ourselves to allow the Holy Spirit to revive, refresh, and renew us.

Wind chimes will be part of our service. If you've got one, bring it along! The sound of a mighty wind can be heard by all! Want to know more about the Holy Spirit? Come to the class after service and ask questions about the power and presence of the third person of the Trinity!!!



What is a Sexton? *a person who looks after a church and churchyard, sometimes acting as bell-ringer and formerly as a gravedigger.*

Well, here at St. Francis we don't have a graveyard, and we aren't asking Chrissy to dig any graves...we do have some bells, we could incorporate ...!

Seriously, our beloved Chrissy is our Sexton, an old English word in the Church of England, that denotes the care and love for the grounds and property of St. Francis both inside and outside. You can appreciate with the property of St. Francis being almost 5 acres that's a tall order. Let alone just looking after the inside of the church and Sunday School Building. Our Sexton is pretty wonderful as she does not only the maintenance, but also looks after the landscaping and gardens, tends to the fountain and the Rose Garden, and keeps things fixed and working. It is a joy to have her as part of the staff at St. Francis. Of course, you know her son, Joshua, who eagerly bounds up to the Altar each Sunday to help with Communion.

Chrissy also coordinates all the groups that use the grounds and facility. She keeps the calendar humming between the Home Schooling Classes, the AA Meetings, Grief Recovery Groups, Labyrinth Walks, and Drumming Circles. We would be a little adrift without her!

Please bless her when you see her and love on her. She loves St. Francis for us all and blesses us with her gift of generous giving.



The Bishop is Coming

We have a wonderful opportunity to welcome Bishop Diane to St. Francis September 25. What a delight to share with her our ministry and love we have here and to enter into worship and celebration with her.

Wait a minute, Sarah. That's September, this is only May! Oh yes! Why am I bringing this to your attention now? We are offering teaching about the Episcopal Church and Confirmation Classes starting in May to prepare for the Bishop's arrival.

What is Confirmation? *"The sacramental rite in which the candidates "express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop" (BCP, p. 860).* It is a ritual in the church to receive people of all ages that wish to make a deeper commitment to Christ and the fellowship shared in the church.

If you are someone who would like to know more about the Episcopal Church and go deeper in your understanding in your faith, we wish to invite you to an open forum May 20 right after church. Brainerd and Esther Dharmaraj will be teaching it and will coordinate further classes and topics to be discussed.

If you are just curious about St. Francis and would like to know more about what the liturgy means, why do we change it, what are the liturgical seasons, why does Sarah do what she does, this is a place for you!!! We want to encourage everyone to take this opportunity to ask questions, to dig deeper, and to enliven your faith and your relationship with God and the church.

May 20. Grab some coffee, and come into the Sanctuary and celebrate Pentecost with deeper understanding of the Holy Spirit and renewed commitment to the Trinitarian Dance!!! See you there!

Men's Group

Will start meeting on the Third
Tuesday of each month
at 6:30 pm.

Please note the change on your
calendars and women note it so
you can remind your husbands!

High on a hillside,
where the earth and sky unite,
I find contentment.

Diantha Ain

Members and News

ECW

Episcopal Church Women



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.



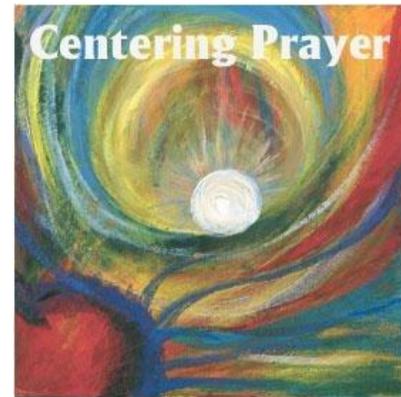
DOK

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.



If you haven't noticed, St. Francis has a lovely Library. It is a room in the Sunday School Building with a couch, chair and tables. A nice place to relax and read or you can check out a book or two and take home. There are many selections of books, so stop by the Library any day. The church office hours are 9 am to 2 pm and someone can help you by unlocking the door. Stop by and see what you've been missing!



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.

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.



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.

PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN WITH...

- Jelly For Sandwiches
 - Peanut Butter "Creamy"
 - Gallon And Sandwich Size Ziploc Bags
 - Aluminum Foil, Soup Bowls
 - 10 oz Coffee Cups
 - Batteries, AA, AAA, C, D
 - Cleaning Products - 409, Pinesol, Bleach
 - Sleeping Bags For The Clients
- More Information: <http://www.thesamaritancenterofsimivalley.org>

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.

BABY CLOSET

St. Francis is partnering with the Samaritan Center on a new ministry serving the needs of families at the Samaritan Center. We will be collecting brand new baby clothes, baby blankets, crib sheets, and receiving blankets. Look for the hamper outside in the narthex for donations ages newborn through toddler sizes. We will be beginning this ministry Tuesday, May 15, from 11:30-1 pm and each Tuesday every week. Please give generously. If you have any questions contact Gerri Harrington at (818)521-0313.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization, St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church.

You shop. **Amazon gives.**

Go to
smile.amazon.com/ch/95-2558848 and
*Amazon donates to
St. Francis of Assisi
Episcopal Church every
time you order through
Amazon.*



Ladies' Afternoon Tea & Garden Fundraiser

When: Saturday, May 12th from 2-4 pm

Where: St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church Patio & Gardens

Cost: \$12 per person, before May 6. \$15 at the door.

Ladies! Get out your prettiest HATS & join us for a beautiful afternoon of Traditional Afternoon Tea Fare, Teas, Live Music & Guest Speaker. Soothe your busy mind with 'the girls' for some down-time as we retreat to our patio. We will relax, enjoy tea varieties & nosh on lovely treats. Invite your friends, sisters, aunts, mothers, daughters... Open to the Public, but seating is limited. More information coming soon!

To make this Event a success, we are inviting the Ladies of St. Francis to Sponsor portions of the Tea. If we all share in sponsoring this Event, we can increase the value of our time spent together as well as funding the plantings of more drought-tolerant plants at the front of our Church. Please consider Sponsoring something at your comfort level. There's something for everyone!

- Tea Sponsors: Please provide a box (or several) of your favorite Tea(s). Please provide 48+ bags per type of tea, Decaf or Regular. Requesting PG Tips, Earl Grey, Florals, Herbals & your other Favorites.
- Finger Sandwich Sponsors: Recipes will be provided for making the sandwiches an Afternoon Tea is so famous for! Quantities at your comfort level & kitchen capacity.
- Dessert & Scones Sponsors: Your favorite cookies from a trusted recipe, cake or other special dessert would be welcome.
- Table Sponsors: Providing for one table to dress & decorate with your choice of: Round Table Cloth, Tea Pot, Tea Cozy if Available, Sugar Dish, Creamer, Place Settings for 6: Napkin, Tea Cup or Mug, Plate, Flatware if Available, Water Glass if Available. You are welcome to be creative, colorful... this is your table and privilege. Centerpieces will be provided.

Please contact Susan Swoish or Joy Craig for more information or to Sponsor. Thank you so much- we are looking forward to a fun-filled afternoon!

Susan: [\(805\) 501-5203](tel:8055015203)

sjs@swbusinessadvisors.com

Joy: [805-796-0750](tel:8057960750)

joy.craig@simivalleyusd.org

MUSIC FESTIVAL

MAY 19TH 7 PM

STFRANCISCHURCHOFSIMI.ORG

Summer of Love is LIVE MUSIC, Classic Rock from 1968-1972 featuring our very own talented Scott Eben.

Tickets are \$20.00 available on brownpapertickets.com and include the cost of LIVE entertainment, Food and Drinks outdoors on the tranquil courtyard.

Financial Update as of March 31, 2018			
	Actual	Budget	
	Jan-March 2018	Jan-March 2018	Variance
Pledge and regular Contribution	37,572.31	39,507.66	(\$1,935.35)
Income	50,753.74	49,980.68	773.06
Expense	54,208.94	49,422.57	(4,786.37)
Net Income	(3,455.20)	558.11	(4,013.31)
Pledge and regular contribution is \$1,935.35 less than budgeted			
Total Income is \$773.06 more than budgeted			
Total Expense is \$4,786.37 more than budgeted			



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Rev. Sarah at Clergy Conference 4/31-5/3.	1 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	2 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	3 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm	4 Office Closed 8 pm AA PH	5
6 Easter 6 Rev. Julie Morris, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 12:30 CROP Walk 6:30 Men's AA PH 7 pm Grief Counseling	7 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study 8 pm Men's AA PH	8 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm Centering Prayer at Dharmarj's 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	9 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	10 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm	11 Office Closed 6:30 pm ECW Mtg 8 pm AA PH	12  2-4 pm Ladies Afternoon Tea & Garden Fundraiser
13 Easter 7 Mother's Day Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH 7 pm Grief Counseling	14 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study 8 pm Men's AA PH	15 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 6:30 pm Men's Group Meeting 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	16 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	17 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Franciscan Articles Due 7pm RCA Clare Rm	18 Office Closed 8 pm AA PH	19  7 pm Summer of Love Music Festival
20 Pentecost Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music, Sam Ctr. Collection, Confirmation Introduction Noon BC Mtg. 6:30 Men's AA PH 7 pm Grief Counseling	21 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study 8 pm Men's AA PH	22 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm Centering Prayer in Library 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	23 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing Service & Eucharist Service 12:15 pm Sam Ctr. Brd Mtg. 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	24 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm	25 Office Closed 8 pm AA PH	26
27 Trinity Sun David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music Recycle Sunday 6:30 Men's AA PH 7 pm Grief Counseling	28 Memorial Day Office Closed 8 pm Men's AA PH	29 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	30 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing Service & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	31 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm		

May 2018 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	May 6	May 13 Mother's Day	May 20	May 27	June 3
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10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Dan J.	Esther D.	Joy C.	Susan S.	Tom B.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Jan J.	Grace R.	Andrew	Eden S.	Kathy B
LEM (Chalice)	Bernadette David S.	Rob & Kristin W.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Jan J. Eden S.	Tom B. Kathy B.
Acolyte & Crucifer	Grace Andrew	Esther	Andrew Grace	Esther	Brenda Wesley
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.	Joy C.	Eden S.	Joy C.	Kathy B.
Home Communion	Brainerd & Esther D.	Eden S.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Jan J. Eden S.	Esther & Brainerd D.
Vestry Counters	Susan S. Joy C.	Amy R. Janet J.	Amy B. Kathy B.	Bernadette Gerri H.	

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.

May	6	13 Mother's Day	20	27	
10am	DOK	Chrissy & Joshua	Anusiem 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.

June 2018 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	June 3	June 10	June 17	June 24	July 1
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Dan J.	Esther D.	Joy C.	Susan S.	Tom B.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Jan J.	Grace R.	Andrew	Eden S.	Kathy B.
LEM (Chalice)	Bernadette David S.	Rob & Kristin W.	Esther & Brainerd D.	Jan J. Eden S.	Tom & Kathy B.
Acolyte & Crucifer	Grace Andrew	Esther	Andrew Grace	Esther	Wesley Brenda
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.	Kathy B.	Eden S.	Joy C.	Kathy B.
Home Communion	Brainerd & Esther D.	Eden S.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Jan J. Eden S.	Tom & Kathy B.
Vestry Counters					

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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 – May 2018

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Sunday Service:

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

Wednesdays

- **10 am Healing Service**