

The Franciscan



The Bishop's Committee

From our Vicar... FEB. 2021



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“Self-fulfillment, Jesus says, comes through letting go, relinquishing our need to control and define, to manipulate and possess. Self-fulfillment comes through laying down our lives in obedience to God’s deepest yearnings for us.”

The above quote from Brother David Vryhof of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist in Boston, Massachusetts, seems very appropriate for the month of February as we lean into Lent.

“Lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word lencton – meaning “spring” or “lengthening” from the time of year when the days grow long. In 2021, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (February 17) and ends with the Easter Triduum (Maundy Thursday through Easter Day), covering 40 days (excluding Sundays which are little feasts of the Resurrection). Some believe that the word “Lent” may derive from the Latin lentare, which means “to bend.” This understanding reinforces a sense of Lent as a time of preparation for personal and collective transformation. Having nurtured ourselves through Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, Lent becomes the time to look truthfully at ourselves and make changes.

This is our opportunity to take a look truthfully at ourselves and move into developing changes and growth. As we quiet ourselves during this Season, we listen more to the Holy Spirit, and the nudges that get our attention. We might consider our readings and take time to reflect and practice Lectio Divina (Holy Reading) during this time, reading a passage and asking “what catches my attention?” We might hold a time of quiet prayer as a discipline this Lent or participate with Centering Prayer.

However, we enter into this Season of reflection and self introspection with God, it is a time that we lay down our lives of busyness and bustle and let our deepest yearnings be attended. What is it that you long for? What is it that doesn’t seem to be resolved or reconciled in your life?

Take this Season quietly and intentionally. Let the Holy Spirit guide you as you seek God and give God your heart, once again, to God’s great Love. Peace be with you always.

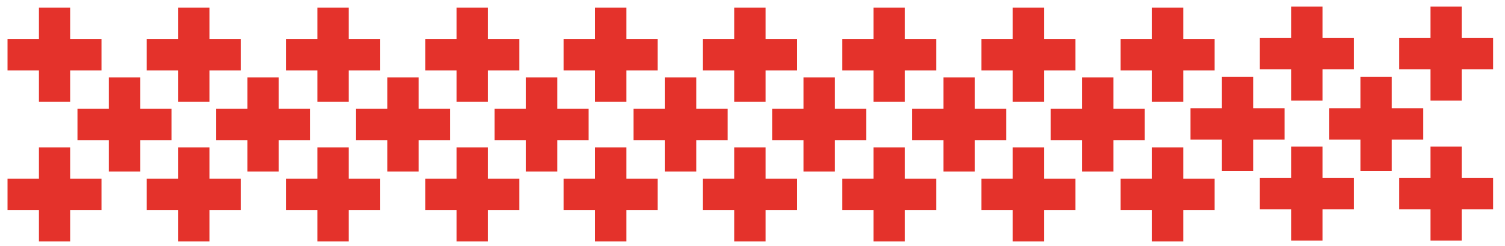


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American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



**Saint Francis of Assisi
Episcopal Church BLOOD
DRIVE**

Location: Sanctuary
280 Royal Avenue
Simi Valley, CA 93065

Thursday, February 11, 2021 11:00 a.m.
to 5:00 p.m.

To make your life-saving appointment, please go to: www.RedCrossBlood.Org
And enter sponsor code: StFrancisSimi

All blood donations are now tested for COVID-19 antibodies redcrossblood.org/antibodytesting

Special offer from our partners at Amazon: To thank you for coming to give Feb. 1-28, we'll send you a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. Restrictions apply, see amazon.com/gc-legal. Terms and conditions apply; visit rcblood.org/together



Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting
RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your
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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.



Ash Wednesday February 17

We will be holding Ash Wednesday Services outside on the Patio this year. Services will be at 10:00, 12:00 and 6:00. Please know all our welcome.

Save the Date and Mark Your Calendar --- ON THE PATIO



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.

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

- Pastoral Care through the church office (805)526-5141, email 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>
-

Blessing of Hope

So may we know
the hope
that is not just
for someday
but for this day
here, now,
in this moment
that opens to us
hope not made
of wishes
but of substance
hope made of sinew
and muscle
and bone
hope that has breath
and a beating heart

hope that will not
keep quiet
and be polite
hope that knows
how to holler
when it is called for
hope that knows
how to sing
when there seems
little cause
hope that raises us
from the dead
not someday
but this day,
every day,
again and again and
again.

- Jan Richardson

Jan Richardson, a writer, artist, and minister, writes blessings for all occasions. It seemed appropriate to include a blessing for this time of Lent and our reflection in this quiet time of the church. We are held in a waiting period. We are mindful of our own shortcomings and our heart's longing for something better. We are longing for something we cannot name and find Someone of whom we hope we know. It is a time in the Desert. It is a time in the dark. Yet, in this time of quiet and reflection, what is it that we hear as we respond to the Psalmist words, "Be Still and Know That I Am God?" As we are still, what do notice and celebrate? What gives us hope in this held time of God's Great Love?

Blessing the Desert

Ask me what this blessing sounds like
and I will tell you about the wind
that hollows everything
it finds.

I will tell you about locusts
who chose this night
to offer their awful,
rasping song.

I will tell you about rock faces
and how it sounds when what was
sturdy
and solid suddenly shears away.

But give me long enough,
and I will tell you also

how beneath the wind,
a silence, not of absence
or of agony that leaves all speechless
and stricken when it comes,
but of rest, of dreaming,

of the seed that knows its season

and the wordless canticle of stars

that will not cease their singing
even when we cannot bear
to hear.

—Jan Richardson
from *The Cure for Sorrow*

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 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.

The power of love lives on
beyond the people who have
shared its joy.

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

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

PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN WITH...

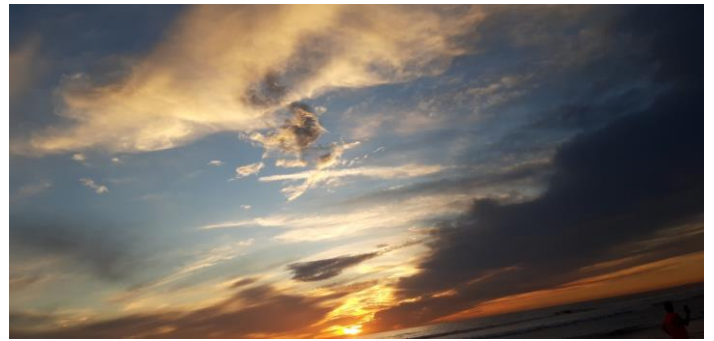
- Men's Jeans, shorts waist 30-34
- Men's & Women's work boots
- Men's belts
- Men's t-shirts size M or L
- Unopened/new Men's underwear & socks
- Disposable gloves size L or XL
- Face masks – Disposable
- Clorox wipes & bleach
- Unopened plastic utensils (forks & knives)
- Water bottles (16.9 fl oz)
- 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

Do not forget to keep in touch through the Phone Tree! 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 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 Swoish	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](#)

FEBRUARY

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

February 2021 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Feb. 7	Feb. 14	Feb. 21	Feb. 28	March 7
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10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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

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

February	3	10	17	24	31
10am	DOK/ECW	Samaritan Ctr. Baby Closet			

March 2021 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	March 7	March 14	March 21	March 28	April 4
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Chrissy B.	Susan S.	Bernadette	Ken S.	Chrissy B.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Eden S.	Ruth H.	Rueben A.	Ruth H.	Eden S.
LEM (Chalice)	Chrissy B.	David K.	Rob & Kristin W.	Bernadette	Chrissy B.
Acolyte & Crucifer					
Usher / Greeters		Rebecca S.	Joe Z.	Rebecca	
Altar Guild	Cathy G.	Chrissy B.	Chris M.	Ruth H.	Cathy G.
Home Communion					
Vestry Counters					
<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>					



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 –February 2021

TO:

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Phone (805)526-5141

stfrancis.simi@gmail.com www.stfranschurchofsimi.org



Sunday Service:

10:15 am

Wednesdays

- **10 am Healing Service**