

The Franciscan



The Bishop's Committee

From our Vicar... September 2018



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Recently in a sermon preached by David Kitch, he referred to many interpretations of the well known scripture, the Five Loaves and Two Fish. (John 6:1-21) This scripture is often referred to as the Miracle of the Feeding of the Five Thousand. Indeed, it may have been something supernatural, that so many people were completely satisfied by this boy's lunch, or it may have been a communal miracle that each one contributed what they had and everyone was fed. Either way it is a miracle indeed and God's blessing over the people. As David shared, this story is in every Gospel and seemed significant that the Gospel writers and the Holy Spirit wanted to make sure we got the message, that God's provision and faithfulness is always present to us! Divine Grace is something we can experience.

What does this mean to us at St. Francis as we begin to look at the Fall and this next year?

As you know we are blessing a couple of families from St. Francis to other areas for their life. We are indebted to these families who have faithfully served, ministered, and Graced St Francis with their time, talents, and treasure. We will miss them greatly!!!!!!

It is also an opportunity for us as a community to consider what the needs are in their absence.

David preached about five aspects of Divine Grace and God's Provision that help us understand what we are preparing for in the Fall.

The first aspect is a need. With these families moving on, there is a need for ministry roles they filled, serving as LEM's and Lectors, on the Altar Guild, and ministering to the community through their time and talents. There is a need of the financial pledge they faithfully fulfilled to St. Francis and their support of the many ministries St. Francis takes part.

The second aspect is an offering. In considering the need of the gap these people leave behind, we are aware of what we can offer to continue the work of St. Francis and what we can contribute. It may be time serving alongside our Jr. Warden, Dan McCarty and Sexton Chrissy Bowden, to help with repairs, planting our landscape, giving time to the daily needs here. It may be offering our prayers for the community, or visiting those who are shut in and unable to attend services to bring Communion. It may be our tithes and making a pledge to St. Francis of our resources to sustain the grounds, buildings, and ministry aspects of our mission. ➡



Published monthly by St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church 280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065
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The third aspect is a blessing. As we given we are given back in return. It is God's principal that as we bless, so we receive a blessing. Ask Tony Fox who shares each week how blessed he is as he shares the Word of God with those he meets. Ask our newest member of St Francis, Ruthie, as she has found a home here at St. Francis. We are blessed that we may be a blessing to others in the world.

The fourth aspect is a sharing. We share and give what we can. It may be our offering once a month for the Samaritan Center or helping Gerri Harrington with the Baby Closet! It may be bringing something for Coffee Hour each month or six weeks. It may be offering to help Nancy in the church office with bulletins, or the monthly newsletter. It may be assisting Brainerd, Esther and Elizabeth with the Website. It may be offering to visit those who are part of our community but are no longer able to be with us for Sunday Worship. They are still very much a part of our church family, and love to hear about all that St. Francis is doing!!!! They receive The Franciscan monthly and offer prayers and resources even if they are unable to be with us. We remember especially Dianatha Ain and her husband Bob, as we print her poems each month in the newsletter.

The fifth aspect is overflow. We worship a God of Abundance, and live in the overflow of God's Grace, Provision, and always LOVE. We are blessed in such abundance beyond ourselves and it is a part of the flow of the Kingdom of God and story of redemption that we are invited to participate with God!!!! We see the fruits of this overflow every time we know of a person's life restored through the ministry of the Samaritan Center. We know this fruit every time our AA groups meet here, or the Homeschooler's, or the various people who choose to use St. Francis for their events and occasions.

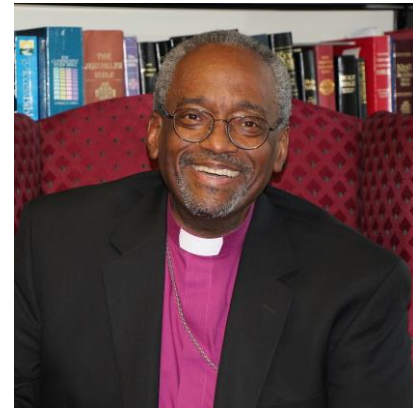
There is a need, there is an offering, there is a blessing, there is a sharing, and there is an overflow. We are given this opportunity to see God's Abundance here and through St. Francis as a community and as a church.

As David concluded in his sermon "God does not seek what you do not have or what you cannot give.

God only seeks what you have.....
maybe your lunch." Amen.



Sarah



Recently Presiding Bishop Michael Curry spoke at General Convention and gave a wealth of life in a small excerpt of three minutes. It offers a profound way of transforming our everyday life and making a great impact on the world. He spoke about our life under the heading of "explore the way of love" and then articulated in a succinct manner the following principals to apply every day.

1. Turn my life to Jesus in every way.
How can I be more aware of Jesus today in my work, in my home, with my children, my colleagues, myself?
2. Learn from Scripture and allow yourself to read daily Jesus' words asking, "what is Jesus saying to me today?"
3. Pray. Bishop Curry emphasized some time every day in intentional prayer, which doesn't have to be long, but a direct conversation with the Lover of our Souls.
4. Worship. Would you consider making a commitment to be in worship with other fellow believers and gather together as community every Sunday?

5. Bless. We have been blessed to be a blessing and carry that blessing wherever we go.
6. Go. That's the key point. We are sent out to be among others to be salt and light and to carry the light we have within us to others.
7. Rest. God made it significant that on the seventh day, rest was important for God. Would it not be so for us?

Please click on:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/explore-way-love> or St. Francis Website, www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org to listen to Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's message. It could be the best three minutes you spend today.



Cursillo Meeting

The 2nd and 4th Wednesday
each Month at 7:30 pm at
Joy and Bob Craig's Home
2735 Beth Place
Simi Valley 93065

Bishop Diane Bruce Coming!



September 2, Bishop Diane Bruce will be preaching and confirming our new members and youth at St. Francis at the 10:15 service, followed by a Potluck Reception.

Look for the signup sheet and help make this event a success!

Willows weep softly
into a receding lake
as summer departs.

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, Eva.

For Comfort: The Heckler family. Deb Wollum, The Nilles family. Janet, Patricia and family. Barbara Haryn. Donna Shiver. Julie Christian. Eden Suguitan and family. Margie Roblins and family.



Back to School Picnic/Potluck

Hello Friends! St. Francis will host our first ever, "**Back to School Picnic/Potluck**" on **September 15th from 5:00-8:00pm**. This is not only a chance to share fellowship with one another, but also, to invite friends, family, and our neighbors to share our spiritual home. This is an opportunity to let others find out what a wonderful, beautiful, vibrant church we have.

As always... there will be food:

- Hot Dogs & Hamburgers
- Potluck side Salads & Desserts

Activities will include:

- A Bouncy house
- Face Painting
- A craft table for the kids
- A Photo "Selfie" Station
- Bean Bag Toss
- Music
- Photo Scavenger Hunt
- "Egg on a Spoon" Race
- And more.....

A sign up sheet will be sent around to volunteer to bring a Potluck Side Salad, or Dessert.

If you or your friends have children, please bring them. (It is the perfect opportunity to let them run crazy and then be put to bed exhausted!)

Even if you don't have children or know of any, we are offering all of us a chance to act like kids again and play some of the picnic games we all remember and love.

See you all on September 15th at 5:00pm, it will be a blast!!!



FAITH AT THE TABLE: Coming of Age

Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Fasting during Ramadan.
Baptism and confirmation.
Bhrataman/Ritsushuddi. Amrit Sanchar.

The ritual moments when we come of age (usually in our early teens) and formally enter into the adult practices of our faith traditions are often times of family and communal celebration, and memorable first steps in our spiritual journeys. And then there are those moments that come later in life, when we face choices and challenges that lead us into a more mature expression of our faith.

The Guibord Center invites young and old to an evening of delicious vegetarian food and sharing the stories of the defining moments of our spiritual lives.

This event is free and open to the public. We thank our site partner, St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church, for hosting this interfaith gathering. Please share the invitation with your circles. To help us provide sufficient food and hospitality.

SEPTEMBER 22, at 6PM. Mark your calendars for a hosted evening of fellowship, education, and warm embrace as we share with our brothers and sisters of different faiths their Rites of Passage, Rituals, and Daily Practices of their faith.

All are WELCOME.

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.



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.

Men's Group

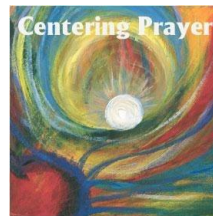
Will meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

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



Two new books that will be in the library soon are The Dressmaker's Dowry by Meredith Jaeger and the Whistling Season by Ivan Doig. Both would make great summer reads. Jaeger links present day San Francisco with the San Francisco of the 1860s. It is a timely book about immigrant dressmakers and how their lives connect through the sons of the same family. It is a quick read and a romance, but I found the history of the 1860s fascinating.

The Whistling Season could also be called a romance set in Wyoming in the early 1900s. A widower with three boys answers an add for a housekeeper. I loved the setting and I loved the discussion of the one room schoolhouse. If you have ever lived in a small community, this will bring you back to all that has to offer. There are gentle twists and turns through out the book, but I just didn't want the story to end.



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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please bless and welcome our new members at St. Francis that are participating in ministry roles and service to our community.

Dan McCarty will be our new Jr. Warden looking after the grounds and property. His lovely wife **Chris** will be serving on the Altar Guild with her big smile and lovely laughter. **Ruth Haskins** has enthusiastically said yes to being a new Lay Eucharist Minister and Lay Reader along with **Paula Keatts**, another blessed addition to our ministry schedule. Please support and help these people as they learn their new ministries at St. Francis.

Let Your Imagination Run Wild...

With Scissors



SoulCollage® Card-Making Salon
Cut images and make SoulCollage® Cards

SoulCollage® is a creative, intuitive collage process using cut images to access your inner wisdom.

You create a personal deck of "inner wisdom" cards with images that reflect different aspects of your personality.

You can use your cards to show you, tell you, and inform you using the card's imagery for guidance.

You select the images.
You create the cards.
You design and ask the questions.
You speak as the card and interpret its meaning.

A fun, creative, soul-full experience enjoyed with a community of seekers.

When:

Saturday
September 22, 2018
1pm-4:30pm

Where:

St. Francis Episcopal Church
280 Royal Avenue
Simi, CA

Price:

\$45 by 9/15/18
\$55 after 9/15/18
all materials included
- even scissors!

For more information:

Visit: <https://www.meetup.com/SoulCollage-for-Greater-Los-Angeles/events/252210556/>

Call: 747-248-7878 ask for Chantel

Email: Chantel@ArtandSoulLab.com



St. Francis Women's Retreat

Our retreat will be held **Feb. 1-3, 2019** at Mount Calvary Monastery and Retreat Center in Santa Barbara.

This is in the center of Santa Barbara near the Mission. We need a nonrefundable deposit by **December 8**. The sign up sheet will be in the church office. The total cost is \$260. This includes 5 meals, instead of the 4 that we have gotten at other retreats. There are gardens for quiet contemplation, a labyrinth and the largest Dragon's Blood tree in the United States. It is named for its blood red sap. The terrace looks out to Mission Canyon and the Santa Ynez mountain range. Bring your daughters, friends and mothers for a wonderful weekend of peace and relaxation.



The Spiritual Journey

*An eight-month voyage of spiritual exploration and growth:
September 2018 - May 2019*



What is the Spiritual Journey program?

The Spiritual Journey is an eight-month program that supports participants in exploring their spiritual lives in a small group setting, deeply enriching their relationship with God/Spirit and helping them recognize the ways that God is present and working in their lives. Through Journey, you can experience contemplative ways of paying attention to your life, cultivate awareness of your growing relationship with the Holy, sample varied forms of prayer and reflection, and experiment with new ways to converse about spiritual experiences. A trained facilitator guides members in developing their skills in deep listening and personal discernment. Participants are introduced to the deep and expansive practices of spiritual formation, the ancient practice of spiritual direction, and a process of discernment for the next steps in their spiritual journey. And for those who feel called, the beginning of a three year journey in becoming a spiritual companion in Stillpoints' Art of Spiritual Direction program.

Who should come?

The Spiritual Journey Program is open to people of all denominations and faiths who are seeking to go deeper in their spiritual walk. We are rooted in the Christian tradition and we welcome a diverse and inclusive learning community.

What is the commitment?

The program consists of eight five-hour sessions that meet once a month. Sessions include practice in forms of prayer and contemplation, time for personal reflection, sharing in pairs and triads, experience-based learning, and group discussion of readings.

When and where does it happen?

Classes begin on Saturday, September 15, 2018, with future dates to be calendared with the group. Small groups are planned for Simi Valley, West Hollywood, Pasadena, Riverside, Claremont.

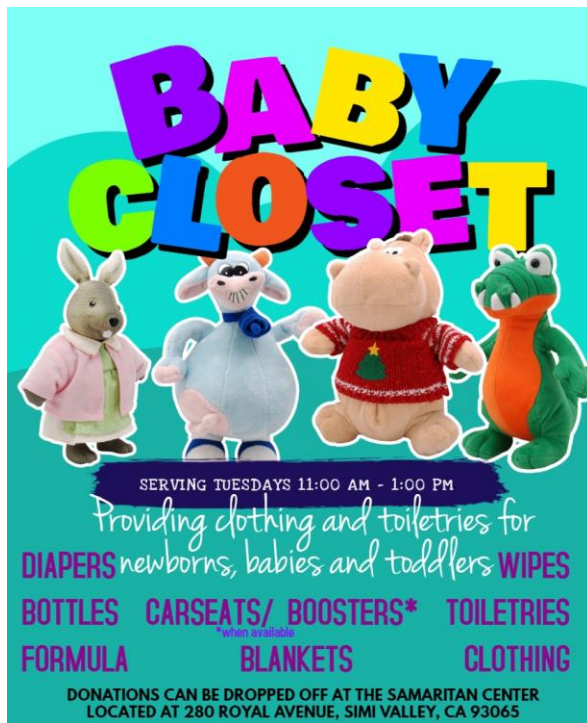
What does it cost?

The tuition of \$400 includes all materials (except books) plus a non-refundable \$25 application fee.

How do I register?

You may apply online at stillpointca.org/spiritual-journey or return the printable form downloaded from the website. You will then be invited to an interview with staff.

Registrations are due in July; class size is limited but will remain open until spaces are full.



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 new and gently used 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 are open from 11:30 – 1 pm on Tuesday every week.

Donations needed of disposable diapers and baby wipes.

If you have any questions contact Gerri Harrington at (818)521-0313.

Thank you!

Dear St. Francis Church and Vicar Sarah,
This is with deep appreciation for the school supply drive that you all participated in. This continues to be a blessing to many families in need. We had so many families this year that were stressed for supplies that were not within their budgets. Thanks so much for this partnership. Blessings,
Betty Eskey



NEW OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED THROUGH ST. FRANCIS

Our church members have asked what useful items

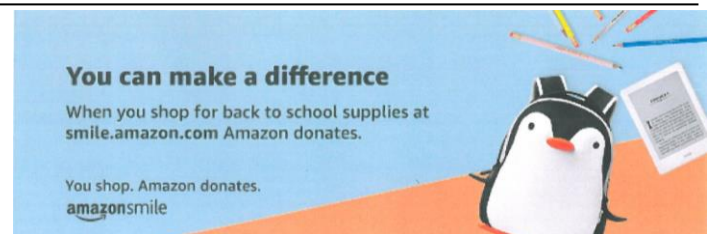
The Samaritan Center can use the most.

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.



Smile Amazon

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.

Go to

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Pentecost 15 Bishop's Visit Bishop Diane Bruce, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music & Confirmation 6:30 Men's AA PH	3 Labor Day Church Office Closed 8 pm Men's AA PH	4 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	5 9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 11:15 am Drum Cir. 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	6 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm	7 Office Closed 6:30 pm ECW Meeting 8 pm AA PH	8
9 Pentecost 16 Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	10 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study 8 pm Men's AA PH	11 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm Centering Prayer at Dharmarj's 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	12 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 11:15 Drum Cir. Mtg. 7:30 pm Cursillo Mtg. at Craigs 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	13 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm	14 Office Closed 8 pm AA PH	15 Spiritual Journey Class 5-8 pm Back to School Picnic/Potluck
16 Pentecost 17 Brainerd Dharmarj, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music, Sam Ctr. Collection Noon BC Mtg. 6:30 Men's AA PH	17 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study Franciscan Articles Due 8 pm Men's AA PH	18 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 6:30 pm Men's Group Meeting 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	19 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service, 11:15 am Drum Cir. 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	20 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm	21 Office Closed 8 pm AA PH	22 1-4:30 pm Soul Collage 6 pm Faith at the Table
23 Pentecost 18 Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music Celebrate and Farewell to the Butlers 6:30 Men's AA PH	24 9am-2pm Office Hrs Noon Brown Bag Bible Study 8 pm Men's AA PH	25 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm Centering Prayer in Library 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	26 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service, 11:15 Drum Cir. 12:15 pm Sam Ctr. Brd 7:30 pm Cursillo Mtg at Craigs 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	27 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm	28 Office Closed 8 pm AA PH	29
30 Pentecost 19 David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music Recycle Sunday 6:30 Men's AA PH	October 1 9am-2pm Office Hrs Noon Brown Bag Bible Study 8 pm Men's AA PH	2 9am-2pm Office Hrs 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	3 9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service, 11:15 Drum Cir. 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	4 9am-2pm Office Hrs 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	5 Office Closed 6:30 pm ECW Mtg. 8 pm AA PH	6

September 2018 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Sept. 2 Bishop's Visit	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23	Sept. 30
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Susan S.	Paula K.	Ken S.	Joy C.	Susan S.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Esther D.	Ruth H.	Andrew	Grace R.	Esther D.
LEM (Chalice)	Bernadette David S.	Ruth H. Esther D.	Rob & Kristin W.	Esther & Brainerd D.	Jan J. Eden S.
Acolyte & Crucifer	Wesley Brenda	Grace	Esther	Grace Andrew	Esther
Usher / Greeters	Tony F. Rebecca S.	Jacob M. Joe Z.	Tony F.	Rebecca S. Tony F.	Tony F.
Altar Guild	Teri M.	Kathy B.	Joy C.	Chris M.	Teri M.
Home Communion	Brainerd & Esther D.	Tom & Kathy B.	Jan J. Eden S.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Jan J. Eden S.
Vestry Counters	Amy B. Janet J.	Amy R. Bob C.	Amy B.	Susan S. Gerri H.	Bernadette Jan J.
<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>					

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

September	2 Bishop's Visit	9	16	23	30
10am	Potluck	Joshua B.	Anne P.	Joy C. Bernadette	Gerri H. Jan J.



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.

October 2018 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28	Nov. 4
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Dan J.	Ken S.	Joy C.	Ruth H.	Dan J.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Jan J.	Eden S.	Grace R.	Susan S.	Andrew
LEM (Chalice)	Bernadette David S.	Ruth H. Esther D.	Rob & Kristin W.	Jan J. Eden S.	Bernadette David S.
Acolyte & Crucifer	Brenda Andrew	Esther S.	Grace Andrew	Esther S.	Brenda
Usher / Greeters	Tony F. Rebecca S.	Tony F.	Rebecca S. Tony F.	Tony F.	Tony F. Rebecca S.
Altar Guild	Chris M.	Joy C.	Teri M.	Joy C.	Teri M.
Home Communion	Brainerd & Esther D.	Jan J. Eden S.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Jan J. Eden S.	Brainerd & Esther D.
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 – September 2018

TO:

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church

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

Hello,
September!

Sunday Service:

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

Wednesdays

- **10 am Healing Service**