

The Franciscan



The Bishop's Committee



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From our Vicar... SEPT. 2021

In the book "Being Disciples" by the former Archbishop Rowan Williams, he writes about us being in community, one with each other, because of Jesus Christ. He says, "*The New Testament describes what happens when human beings are brought into relationship with Jesus Christ by faith as a community in which everyone's gifts are set free for the service of others. The community that most perfectly represents what God wants to see in the human world is one where the resources of each person are offered for every other, whether those resources are financial or spiritual or intellectual or administrative. This is the pattern of the Body of Christ as St Paul defines it.*"

I couldn't help thinking about St Francis and our shared community in worship. We are the Body of Christ reflecting through one another God's love and light. When I teach Chapel at St Patrick's, I speak to the students about the light within us and how that is reflected out to the world around us. I think of our ministry and shared life at St Francis and see the light shining out to the community around us.

I wonder as we return to worship, how we might ask ourselves, what are the resources that I bring to this community? We are building our music ministry together. We are building our ministry at the table. We are building our life together in stewarding our property. What are the ways that we might bring particular gifts to St Francis?

Each year we seek to renew our commitment of resources and look to what the Spirit is doing in this season. I would invite us all to reflect on what we might offer to one another and how we can be light illuminated, that we would represent what God wants to see in the human world.

An awesome task that takes each of us! As they say "it takes a village." It takes a community like St Francis to bear that light for all!



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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
- 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>



Praying

It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch

a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway

into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.

—Mary Oliver



October 3, 2021

10:15 AM

St Francis' Patronal Feast Day -

- Service will be held socially distanced, following all protocols outside on the church patio.
- We welcome all animals large or small to the service - Please be sure to leash or crate all pets / animals.

In the Book of Common Prayer, there is a well known Collect that says:

“O Lord Our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O Lover of Souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.”

I love this Collect because it expresses attributes of God that are present to us always, such as God’s compassion, mercy and graciousness. I often imagine the graciousness of God as the extravagant love of God just poured out over us, like some magnificent elixir of life that is generously distributed over us all.

I am refreshed and renewed again as we enter back into worship with one another. God catches us up in extravagant love of just enjoying being with God and one another. The measurement of effect is seen as we simply allow ourselves to come together and enter into the moment.

Refreshment comes unbidden often during a day. Sometimes it catches me off guard when I see something that calls my attention to watch and be blessed. It could be someone’s smile, a picture, a moment of reflection, or prayer. In the midst of a busy day, the discipline of taking a moment away and seeking God’s compassion, mercy and grace is available and present to us anytime.

Where do you find refreshment? Often it is in the bigger events such as the vacation at the beach, or the days that don’t demand responsibilities and concentration. Yet, the Grace of God is to be experienced, and indeed given, to us every moment. I wonder in the everyday-ordinary of the work place, of the home, of the children, of the school, wherever we find ourselves if we can find ourselves refreshed in God.

Is it giving ourselves a break at lunch, and talking a walk? Would it be a silent prayer at our desk?

Maybe it’s just a quick moment to read a Scripture on that coffee break. Sometimes, it’s just sitting and being quiet. However you consider what might be a way to be refreshed for you, give yourself the value that it is important enough to do it.

Then enter into God’s rest in that moment for you. Please know that I am praying for you as the Collect expresses God’s lavished Grace over us all as we turn to God, for our everything. May you be blessed this month and refreshed.



Bible Study is starting again! September 27, 7:30 pm, online with David Kitch leading the study on the Lectionary Reading for the following Sunday will be explored.



St. Francis Book Club
We are forming a new book club and anyone who would like to join us should contact me, Chris 805-276-4971.

Centering Prayer
Beginning September 23 at 7:00 pm . We will meet in the Sunday School Classroom. ALL ARE WELCOME!

New Online Four-Week, Noncredit Classes

Course Fee: \$50

To register click [here](#).

One Nation, Under God: Understanding Christian Nationalism

The Reverends Gabriel Ferrer and Gary Hall

Tuesdays in September at 7 pm via Zoom

Christian nationalism can be defined as a belief that the United States is largely shaped by its Anglo-Protestant past, that the government should take active steps to ensure that Christianity continues to hold a privileged position in the public square, and by the fear that the country will lose both its identity and its freedom if it does not preserve its religious and cultural inheritance.

In four weekly one hour discussions, we will examine some of the historical roots and current thoughts of this world view, and how, with the help of technology, it has come to play a significant role in both current political thought and religious culture.

Gabriel Ferrer is dean of Deanery Two and rector of St. Martin's in Winnetka. Gary Hall is interim dean of Bloy House.

For Such a Time as This: Modern Public Theology

The Reverend Robert W. Lee, MTS

Thursdays in September at 7 pm via Zoom

The rise of modern public theology and the voice of progressive faith leaders can be directly traced to the election of Donald Trump and subsequent events. This course seeks to help learners create a space for conversation in their parishes for both conversation surrounding faith and policy issues while also giving tools for having those conversations beyond the platitudes of polarizing conflict. Borrowing from Diana Butler Bass, William Barber, and Jack Jenkins, we will trace the roots of modern public theology along with what the movement means for the future.

Rob Lee is an ordained Methodist pastor pursuing a Ph.D. in Theology. He is nationally prominent through his social media posts, podcasts, and appearances on MTV.

Aging and Ageism

Susan Brown, Episcopal Communities and Services

Thursdays in October at 7 pm via Zoom

What are the assumptions we make about aging? Are those assumptions cross-cultural, or do they differ within the very diverse Diocese of Los Angeles? What are the facts of aging from the perspectives of employment, health and medicine, spirituality, charitable giving? What does ageism look like and to what degree might we have "introjected" biases about both younger and older people? What is the connection to "ableism"? What would a cross-generational, diversely-abled Jesus Movement look like, and how might we get there?

This four-week, one hour course will explore the questions above and probably many others, as we survey together both our attitudes about age and the particular picture of our own communities. It is the first of a series to be offered from Fall 2021 through Spring 2023, with additional topics to include: Dementia; Ministry to Older Adults; Death and Dying.

Susan Brown administers the By Your Side program of Episcopal Communities and Services.

Medieval Women Mystics

The Right Reverend Kirk Smith

Tuesdays in October at 7 pm via Zoom

Bishop and medieval scholar Kirk Smith brings his class on medieval women mystics previously taught at Yale, General Theological Seminary, and Virginia Theological Seminary to Bloy House in October. Each week will focus on a woman mystic from the Middle Ages. The perfect course for those who want to explore the roots of Christian mystical prayer practice or deepen their understanding of the life of prayer.

Kirk Smith is retired Bishop of Arizona who holds a Ph.D. in Medieval Studies from Cornell. In retirement he has taught at Berkley Divinity School at Yale, General Theological Seminary, and Virginia Theological Seminary.



September 22, 2021 : 6:30 - 7:30

Come join us on the Patio for the Autumnal Equinox Drumming Circle Service. We will join with one another, drumming and hearing the story of Old Turtle, who asks the questions, "why are we here, " and "how will we live this day." As we turn from Summer to Autumn, let us bless one another with the turning of the leaves and the earth's resting through our gathered time together.

All are welcome!!!!

What is worship?

Interestingly enough in researching that very question, I came across the Hebrew and Greek words for worship. *'aboda* (Hebrew) and *latreia* (Greek). Now you may not be up on the meanings of these words, even as I wasn't until I did some reading, but our understanding of worship doesn't always match the meanings in the Scriptures for worship.

You see the words for worship in the Scriptures reflects "service associated with the work done in the temple." Service, serve and minister are the meanings for worship. Of course, as we consider our commitment to God, we understand that our worship of God is our service and dedication to God. It is our ministry, service and serving in the world -- that is worship.

The English word "worship" comes from the word "worthy," and here is one of its classic expressions: "worship" means acknowledging the worth, the worthiness, of the one who is worshiped. It means gladly recognizing and celebrating the fact that this God is who he is and does what he does.

So indeed, if I recognize God as worthy to serve, then I am in worship of this God. It means that all I do is worship in my life if I am acknowledging the worth of the one who is worshiped.

Thus, one of the purposes of Christian worship is that we not only become like the God we see in Jesus Christ, but that we reflect this God in our own lives and to the people and places where we are placed. And this of course means, as many have insisted, that in our worship we are precisely living and acting "in Christ," making real what is true of us through baptism and faith. We become living members of Jesus Christ who in his perfect manhood offers to the Father that love, obedience, and loyalty which is the true human vocation.

This understanding takes worship out of just a once-a-week context and places it in the realm of 24-7 daily living experience.

Of course, where people do not understand the gospel, it is always perfectly possible for them to suppose that by going to church, singing hymns, saying prayers, or putting money into the collection they have earned favor with God. But Christian worship from the very beginning has attempted, to rule this out, to make it clear that such a thing would be a shallow misunderstanding.

Good liturgy planned carefully week by week and year by year, will bring the two together so that they complement and reinforce each other and, most importantly, build up the worshipers in the knowledge and love of God and send them out refreshed for their kingdom-tasks in the world. And if we know what we are about this should mean that in our worship, in our music and readings, in the drama and movement of the mass, in its silence as well as its speech, we are not only reflecting different cultures but contributing creatively and in the power of the Spirit to the culture which our God is bringing about in our own day.

We strive to have a complement of good liturgy and building worship for each of us to enter into a more sacred space when we meet Sunday morning. This includes rotating the liturgical settings of the Mass such as Bethancourt, Southern Harmony, Traditional, and Marty Haugen. As we become more familiar with these settings, we enter into a fuller corporate worship experience.

As well, we seek to offer worship experiences of diversity and seasonal options such as the Taize service during Advent, Jazz Vespers and Blessing of the Animals. All these services seek to enhance our experience of worship, but more importantly, it is hoped that our worship at St. Francis refreshes us and empowers us for our kingdom-tasks in the world. For truly, our worship is our lives as we reflect the glory of God and commit and dedicate ourselves to God.

Greetings from Bogota Kids Mission in Colombia.

After slowing down for several weeks due to the third wave of COVID and two of our teachers contracting it, we are happy to say our teachers have fully recovered and we're "...full speed ahead".

People arrive at our door daily, hoping that we can squeeze their children into our program. Most have heard from other families that we really do teach and help the kids. But with well over 170 kids enrolled, most of these petitions go onto a waiting list.

God honours your prayers. During our devotional times with the children they thank him for His provision, for The Bridge and its teachers. They regularly pray for those with COVID, ask the Lord to provide food. They pray for their friends and ask God to help them with their homework, I recently asked them if they had noticed that their homework was going better. (I certainly had!) They quickly replied yes. So, we celebrated that the Creator of the Universe is responding to their prayers. It's amazing to consider that!

Profe Janet, who works mostly with our adolescents is plagued with questions from her kids about God, sex and death. They are not easy topics, but they are great opportunities to speak Truth into these children's lives. One girl said, "It's here that I can get answers to all the questions I have." And while Janet replied that she doesn't actually have all the answers, the child still insisted. It's part of building bridges and providing a safe place to learn.

The other day while Janet was buried in trying to get her kids through all their homework, one asked, "How long can we

stay here?" Confused, Janet asked, "You mean today?"

"No. How long are you going to let us come."

Suddenly understanding, Janet replied, "As long as the Lord provides for us to be here, even if you're in university, you can still come to The Bridge."

With a sigh of relief and a thumbs up, the child smiled and went back to work.

I have attached the link for a video we put together for a Vacation Bible School in Calgary who were interested in supporting out efforts. It provides a chance to meet some of our children. Feel free to peruse and enjoy!

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

Anita Mix
The Bridge
BOGOTA KIDS MISSION

To Donate:
St. Francis Episcopal Church
280 Royal Avenue
Simi Valley, CA 93065

Please indicate in the memo that it is for Bogota Kids



DOK RETREAT

The Dates have been set for the 2022 Women's Retreat! March 25, 26, 27!
Contact Leslie Lonergan or Pat Udell for Details.

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 c

help fill the closet with Diapers, Wipes and Baby Cream!

Parish Prayer Needs:

Healing: Barbara, 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.

The sun in the west paints a masterpiece for me, then steals it away.

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'Os)
- 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>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	2	3 8 pm AA PH	4
5 Pentecost 15 Rev. Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	6 LABOR DAY 8 pm Men's AA PH	7 6:30 pm Women PH 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	8 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	9	10 8 pm AA PH	11 .
12 Pentecost 16 Rev. Alene Campbell, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	13 8 pm Men's AA PH	14 6:30 pm Women PH 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	15 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 6 pm Woodranch HOA 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	16	17 8 pm AA PH	18
19 Pentecost 17 Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	20 8 pm Men's AA PH	21 6:30 pm Women PH 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	22 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 6:30 pm Autumnal Drum Circle 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	23 7 pm Centering Prayer	24 8 pm AA PH	25
26 Pentecost 18 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Noon Bishop's Committee 6:30 Men's AA PH	27 7:30 pm Bible Study with David Kitch 8 pm Men's AA PH	28 6:30 pm Women PH 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	29 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	30		

September 2021 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Sept. 5	Sept. 12	Sept. 19	Sept.26	Oct. 3
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10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Susan S.	Bernadette	Ruth H.	Kerri-Jo H.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Chrissy B.	Chrissy B.	Rueben A.	Eden S.	Chrissy B.
LEM (Chalice)	David K.	Chrissy B.	Lisa N.	David K.	Lisa N.
Acolyte & Crucifer					
Usher / Greeters	Rebecca	Rebecca S.	Joe Z.	Tony F.	Rebecca
Altar Guild	Ruth H.	Chrissy B.	Chris M.	Chrissy B.	Ruth H.
Home Communion					
Vestry Counters					
Preaching	Rev. Sarah	Rev. Alene	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K

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!

October 2021 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Oct. 3	Oct. 10	Oct. 17	Oct. 24	Oct. 31
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Susan S.	Bernadette	Ruth H.	Rueben A.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Chrissy B.	Chrissy B.	Rueben A.	Eden S.	Chrissy B.
LEM (Chalice)	Lisa N.	David K.	Chrissy B.	David K.	Chrissy B.
Acolyte & Crucifer					
Usher / Greeters	Rebecca	Rebecca S.	Joe Z.	Tony F.	Rebecca
Altar Guild	Ruth H.	Chrissy B.	Chris M.	Chrissy B.	Ruth H.
Home Communion					
Vestry Counters					
Preaching	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Bishop Diane	Rev. Sarah



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 2021

TO:

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



Sunday Service:

- **10:15 am**

Wednesdays

- **10 am Healing Service**

October 3

- **Blessing of the Animals**

October 24

- **Bishop's Visit**