

The Franciscan



From our Vicar... DEC. 2021



• Diocesan Bishop •
John Harvey Taylor

The Rev. Sarah Kitch
stfrancis.simi@gmail.com

- **Bishop's Warden**
Amy Brown
- **Junior Warden**
Dan McCarty
- **Finance**
Sam Anusiem
- **Clerk/ Communications**
Ruth Haskins
- **Worship**
- **Pastoral Care**
Jan Jones
- **Service/Outreach**
Gerri Harrington
- **Fellowship/Outreach**
Cathy Grimes

Celebrations and thanksgivings, shared community and fellowship with one another, is what St. Francis is all about. It's all part of welcoming in a new season at St. Francis and blessing the sense of hospitality and worship. We begin our liturgical calendar once again from the beginning and the Advent Season.

Now we turn to what is the season of charity and mercy, Grace given to us from God, through Jesus our Savior. This is a focused time as we renew our relationship with the Samaritan Center with our **ANGEL TREE** and share our resources with them for their needs. This is a focused time when we enter into preparation for Advent and allow ourselves to reflect and are quiet, awaiting the birth of our Lord. Our **TAIZE SERVICES** will be weekly as we pause in the mid-week, letting ourselves pray and be present to our Lord and one another. We honor the change of the seasons and the **Winter Solstice** as we gather together around the fire.

This is a focused time when we prayerfully enter into a Covenant and commit ourselves to this community, offering our resources of time, talents and treasure for another season at St. Francis through our **Pledges**. We are seeking what God has for us in the present moment and for our time to come. The Scripture continues to speak to us as we anticipate our future in Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

As each one of us commit to the community and work of St. Francis we will realize this promise. We are the church collectively, and our life and worship, fellowship and shared sacred moments are what make up St. Francis. As we turn into this season of charity and mercy, Grace and Love, may we prayerfully discern what our part is to participate in the Spirit's work at St. Francis. As we await our Lord's birth, may this Advent season be our awakening into a fresh revelation of the Lord our God, even as the shepherds were startled by the guiding star. We follow that star and cast our gaze, in this focused time, on a newborn baby that is the hope for the world.



Stay Connected With Us!

- Pastoral Care through the church office (805)526-5141
- Pastoral Care via email Stfrancis.simi@gmail.com
- Keep up through the St. Francis Website <https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/>
- Sunday Worship Live Streamed - link in the St. Francis Weekly
- Remember to keep in touch with each other through the Phone Tree
- Stay connected through weekly services and activities made available

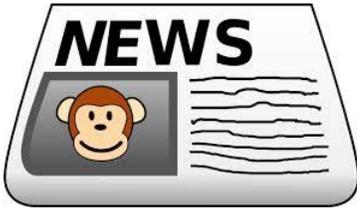
Please remember St. Francis with your donations and pledge.
Secure online Giving available through PayPal:

<https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/donate>

Ten Tips for a Simpler, More Meaningful Christmas

1. Plan ahead. Instead of going on auto-pilot the day after Thanksgiving, hold a family meeting to decide what the group really wants to do and who's going to do what.
2. If you need a symbol for giving (in addition to Jesus and the Magi), learn about St. Nicholas. Santa Claus has been completely taken over by commerce.
3. Avoid debt. Refuse to be pressured by advertising to overspend.
4. Avoid stress. Give to yourself. Don't assume that things have to be the same way they've always been.
5. Draw names rather than everyone giving something to everyone else in your giving circle. Set a ceiling for each recipient. Give children ONE thing they really want, rather than so many gifts. If need be, pool funds.
6. Give appropriate gifts. Get to know the recipient. Give what they want to receive, not what you want to buy.
7. Give alternative gifts. Give 25% of what you spent last year to the needy... individuals or groups locally, nationally or internationally. Practice Fair Trade. Buy crafts and clothing from developing countries at alternative gift markets, not from commercial importers, so that artisans receive more for their work. Give of yourself, not just "stuff" – a coupon book for future services (such as baby-sitting or an "enchanted evening"); something baked, sewn, handmade, composed, etc.; or a family service project, such as working together at a soup kitchen.
8. Celebrate Advent for four weeks before Christmas. Use the booklet "Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?" or some other appropriate guide.
9. Put the gifts under the tree shortly before opening them. Then take turns opening them around the tree, not all at once, so that each gift can be admired and each giver thanked. Read to each other, tell stories, play "The Christmas Game," leave the TV off.
10. Make changes slowly but persistently. Don't try to change everything and everybody all at once. The resistance will make you feel defeated and lonely.

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November News You May Have Missed:

- General Convention took place in Riverside County on the 13th.
- Reverend Sarah was celebrated on the 14th with the Priest's Paella Party on the St Francis Patio
- Our Beloved Administrator, Nancy has left St Francis

General Convention

11.13.21

Pictured left to right:
Ruth Haskins
David Kitch
Sarah Kitch
Amy Brown



Priest's Paella Party on the Patio



Aida & Ana



Tracy & Ken



Peggy & Jill



Our Beloved Church Administrator, Nancy Danowsky ...

Has needed to complete her engagement with St Francis and meet some family needs. We are so grateful for all she did for us and her involvement with the community. She will be missed.

However, St Francis is delighted to say we have now extended the position to Chrissy Bowden who is able and equipped to rise to this new position in serving St Francis. As she fulfills these administrative tasks, we will be looking for someone to do housekeeping and cleaning for St Francis.

Thank you for all your service and ministry for us Nancy.

We bless you and wish you well!

Coming Up In December:

- Jazz Vespers at 5:00 pm 12.05.21
- Taizé Services each Wednesday Evening at 6:00 pm
- Greening of the Church 12.19.21 Following Church
- Christmas Eve Service - Candlelight at 7:00 pm
- Advent Sunday School
- Women's Retreat Sign-ups Open



Vespers, one of the two main hours of the Church's daily Office, has roots extending into the evening prayers of ancient Israel. Lucernarium (literally: lamp lighting time) was another name for these periods of devotion which began at the rising of the evening star with a blessing prayer. The Book of Common Prayer preserves the evolution of these early forms of worship and prayer in a way that is faithful to our heritage and open to creating new traditions.



Taizé Services



The Taizé Community is an [ecumenical monastic order](#) in [Taizé, Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy, France](#). It is composed of more than one hundred brothers, from [Catholic](#) and [Protestant](#) traditions, who originate from about thirty countries across the world. The community has become one of the world's most important sites of [Christian pilgrimage](#). Over 100,000 young people from around the world make pilgrimages to Taizé each year for prayer, Bible study, sharing, and communal work. Through the community's ecumenical outlook, they are encouraged to live in the spirit of kindness, simplicity and reconciliation.

The community, though Western European in origin, has sought to include people and traditions worldwide. They have sought to demonstrate this in the music and prayers where songs are sung in many languages, and have included [chants](#) and [icons](#) from the [Eastern Orthodox](#) tradition.

The music emphasizes simple phrases, usually lines from [Psalms](#) or other pieces of [Scripture](#), repeated and sometimes also sung in canon.

We will be offering Taizé services every Wednesday through Advent to allow ourselves a pause and rest in the midst of the busy holiday season.

Services are at 6:00 pm in the Church. This service offers some time to take some quiet and reflection upon the meaning of our lives and the Advent of Christmas.

All are welcome to each service:

Wednesday, December: 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd



2022 Women's Retreat

The 2022 Women's' Retreat will be held at Holy Spirit Retreat Center in Encino, California. If you have never gone and are interested in learning more about Holy Spirit or the retreat itself, please ask me or Leslie Lonergan. Many of the women in the congregation have gone in the past so you could very well find someone sitting right next you that you can ask! The grounds at Holy Spirit offer a restful location where you will find peace and tranquility. There are many activities where fellowship is a part of the retreat and everyone is welcome to join; unless you just want to relax, sleep or go for a walk. Mark your calendars for the weekend of March 25th – 27th, the retreat starts with dinner on Friday evening and ends on Sunday after lunch. The cost for the 2 night stay, which includes 6 meals; will be \$250 for a double room and \$290 for a single. Right now, due to Covid, we may be asked to do single rooms. We will keep you updated on this when we get confirmation.

There is a sign-up sheet at the church or you can contact me at (805)358-4438 or by email at:

patriciaudell@sbcglobal.net.

Hope to see you there for a fun, relaxing weekend!

St. Francis of Assisi

Sunday School for Advent

Children ages 5-10 are invited to a fun Sunday School Experience during Advent:

Where: At the Sunday School Building

When: We start at 10:15 AM

November 28

December 5

December 12

December 19

The children will rejoin the congregation at the Peace and remain with their families through communion.

Class will include greetings, prayers, Advent weekly theme activities and crafts or games.



The **Greening of the Church** will take place following Sunday Service on December 19th.

Christmas Eve Service will be ONE Service at 7:00 PM. This will be a Choral, Eucharistic Service with Candlelight.

Come 15 min Early
To Sing Christmas Carols.

December 26th will be
Lessons and Carols Service



Bible Study



Bible Study has concluded for 2021. Please stay tuned following the winter months for a return date in 2022



St. Francis Book Club

We are forming a new book club! Anyone who would like to join us should contact me: Chris M at 805.276.4971

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.



Centering Prayer is on hiatus for the remainder of 2021. Please look to join us in 2022!

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 an ongoing need. The Baby Closet is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays and is collecting DIAPERS SIZE 5,6,7 and has a HUGE need for BABY WIPES.

Orchestras combine the artistry of many to create one sound.

Diantha Ain

Annual Meeting will be held following church service on January 23rd. Please submit your reports by January 10th. If you have any questions, please connect with Reverend Sarah or our Senior Warden, Amy Brown.

Baby Closet

280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley, CA 93065

IMMEDIATE NEED:
DIAPERS size 5,6
WIPES any kind



BABY CLOSET

There is also a present need for volunteers on Tuesdays. Please talk with Gerri Harrington if you, are able to help in these needs and have any questions.



Poinsettia's will be placed at the Altar beginning December 19th with the greening of the Church. If you would like to contribute: contact the church office and/or place your offering in the plate with a floral envelope available in the Narthex. We appreciate your generosity!



The **Greening of the Church** will take place following Sunday Service on December 19th.



We need your help in decorating trees, hanging garland, decking the halls with wreaths and many more tasks. No matter your skill level please, come! We need a pew audience to let us know when things are straight or need to move. So please, come! Help make light work for many hands.



Transform Lives with Twice the Impact

Help create lasting change in the world this holiday with a donation that doubles! Until 12/31, your tax-

deductible donation will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$650,000. Now your gift goes twice as far in caring for our brothers and sisters worldwide during this time of transformation.

More at: <https://support.episcopalrelief.org/gifts>

BOGOTA KIDS MISSION



Lloyd and Anita Mix

The Bridge

October 2021



Our mission is to build a bridge to a brighter future:

"We are so grateful for all you have done for our family. I told my older daughter in the USA not to worry about us, that there is a foundation here that is helping us with everything. The kids are now well equipped to re-enter school in Venezuela but wanted to keep coming to The Bridge for as long as they can. They'll be here until the day before we leave."

Kids are already talking about Christmas...

That's because they are now in a weeklong 'fall' vacation before the final five-week stretch of their academic year. To encourage and help support families during the break, we gave out 90 bags of groceries. On Friday, Anita happened to get on the same bus as one of the recipients. As they chatted, the grateful mother chuckled while sharing all the meals she had planned for the days ahead because of that help.

Your giving provides joy and relief!

As kids gear up for their final academic push, they have been reminiscing about pre-pandemic Christmas celebrations at THE BRIDGE. In the past there have been academic certificates, stage nativity presentations (in which every child participates) a certain amount of feasting and gifts! "Are we going to do that this year?" they hopefully inquire. Since COVID lingers but is not all-consuming, our goal is to provide as much of that joy as possible.

At the top of our gift list is a storybook bible for each child...

Because that is what we hear about most. Children read them at home, sometimes to their families. They bring them into THE BRIDGE to show us and use for homework assignments. It's one of the most valuable seeds we plant. So, every second year we make it our goal to give an age and reading level appropriate 'Bible' to each child at The Bridge.

Would you help us with that project?

**A gift of \$20.00 places the Bible
in a child's hands and home this Christmas.**

We anticipate 150 children.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9am-1pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 6pm Taize Service 7:30 pm AA PH	2	3 8 pm AA PH	4
5 Advent2 Rev. Sarah Kitch Preaching Eucharist with Music Jazz Vespers 5PM 6:30 Men's AA PH	6 8 pm Men's AA PH	7 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women AA PH	8 9am-1 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 6pm Taize Service 7:30 pm AA PH	9	10 8 pm AA PH	11
12 Advent3 David Kitch, 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 AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women AA PH	15 9am-1 pm Office Hr. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 6pm Taize Service 6 pm W.R. HOA 7:30 pm AA PH	16 6 pm H.H. HOA	17 8 pm AA PH	18
19 Advent4 Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Greening of the Church 6:30 Men's AA PH	20 8 pm Men's AA PH	21 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women AA PH	22 9am-2 pm Office Hr. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM 8 pm AA PH	25 Christmas Day
26 Christmas David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	27 8 pm Men's AA PH	28 6:30 pm Women PH 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women AA PH	29 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	30	31 8 pm AA PH	

RECYCLING AT ST FRANCIS

Please bring in your Recycling on the **last Sunday of the month** - we'll put those cans and bottles to good use!

December 2021 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Dec. 5 Advent 2	Dec. 12 Advent 3	Dec. 19 Advent 4	Dec. 24 7:00 PM	Dec. 26 Lessons &Carols
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Tony F.	Susan S.	Bernadette	Ruth H.	Tony F.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Chrissy B.	Chrissy B.	Rueben A.	Eden S.	Chrissy B.
LEM	Lisa N.	David K.	Chrissy B.	David K.	Chrissy B.
Usher / Greeters	Rebecca S.	Rebecca S.	Joe Z.	Tony F.	Rebecca S.
Altar Guild	Gerri H.	Chrissy B.	Cathy G.	Ruth H.	Chris M.
Preaching	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah

January 2021 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Jan. 2	Jan. 9	Jan. 16	Jan. 23	Jan. 30
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Susan S.	Bernadette	Ruth H.	Tony F.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Chrissy B.	Chrissy B.	Rueben A.	Eden S.	Chrissy B.
LEM	Lisa N.	David K.	Chrissy B.	David K.	Chrissy B.
Usher / Greeters	Rebecca S.	Rebecca S.	Joe Z.	Tony F.	Rebecca S.
Altar Guild	Gerri H.	Chrissy B.	Cathy G.	Ruth H.	Chris M.
Preaching	Rev. Sarah	David	Rev. Sarah	David	Rev. Sarah

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

Newsletter – December 2021

TO:

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Sunday Service:

- 10:15 am

Wednesdays:

- 10 am Healing Service
- 6 pm Advent Service

Christmas Eve:

- 7 pm Candlelight